FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 JANUARY 1985

Airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel

A Jewish Agency official cited by Jerusalem television attributed the Belgian charter company's suspension of the airlift on 5 January to the publicity given to the operation at the official press conference last week. The foreign elements involved in the airlift had made their participation conditional on total secrecy, the television noted earlier. Confirming that the premature disclosure of the affair has sparked off a row between the Jewish Agency and elements inside the Israeli Government, IDF radio noted that official circles in Jerusalem rejected the Agency's accusation that government publicity was responsible for damaging the "Moses Campaign." Prime Minister Shim'on Peres subsequently declared that Israel will "not rest" until all the Ethiopian Jews arrive in Israel, according to Jerusalem radio, which noted that some 8,000 Jews are still in Ethiopia.

As for Ethiopia's reaction, a Foreign Ministry statement cited by Addis Ababa radio "strongly protested" the Sudanese Government's "interference and complicity with other foreign powers in arranging transport to take Ethiopian citizens from their country of birth to Israel and other countries." However, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry denied that Sudan has helped move the Falasha Jews to Israel, though it pointed out that Sudan is not a "jail" for Ethiopian refugees, thousands of whom have left for European and non-European countries with the knowledge of the UN Commission on Refugees, SUNA reported. The Sudanese statement accused Ethiopia of itself conniving with Israel and asserted that Ethiopia has purchased weapons captured by the Israelis in Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Israeli Cabinet secretary stated that Israel and Sudan have not cooperated in the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, according to Jerusalem radio.

In wider Arab reaction to the airlift, Egypt's *AL-AHRAM* contended that instead of concentrating all its efforts on rescuing the Falasha Jews, Israel should have helped fight the famine and rescue all those affected without discrimination, Cairo radio reported. In Libya, the Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the Ethiopian ambassador to express the Jamahiriyah's "concern and anger" over the affair and to obtain "clarifications" from the Ethiopian Government, JANA noted.

Lebanon

At the start of the 7 January Lebanese-Israeli talks at Al-Naqurah, the Israeli delegation issued a communique expressing the hope that the Lebanese have revised their views on the security arrangements necessary for Israel's withdrawal, Jerusalem radio reported. However, in a 6 January speech broadcast by Beirut radio, President Amin al-Jumayyil stressed that Lebanon's position on the issue of the south has not changed, adding that while Lebanon accepts the need for a UN military presence, it will not agree to the UN forces being used to separate one Lebanese area from another and to act as a cover for a continuing Israeli presence. The Israelis must present a comprehensive program for total withdrawal which will permit the Lebanese state to assume control of the areas vacated, he asserted.

As for the coastal road security plan, which has not yet been implemented, a Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) source cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio disclosed that PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Amal movement leader Nabih Birri have reached a new agreement with Syrian officials in Damascus underlining the need to expedite the plan in the form agreed on previously. The PSP radio had earlier blamed the Phalangist Lebanese Forces for blocking the Internal Security Forces' deployment in the Al-Kharrub region on 3 January, claiming that the Phalangists had demanded a change in the arrangements for the deployment of the Security Forces. On the other hand, in a Radio Monte Carlo interview, the Lebanese Forces official spokesman blamed Junblatt for the obstacles to the security plan.

Syrian Ba'th Party Congress

Syria wants solidarity with Egypt, but with an Egypt without Camp David, President Hafiz al-Asad maintained in his address at the opening session of the Syrian Ba'th Party Congress on 5 January broadcast on Damascus radio. As for independent Palestinian decisionmaking, Syria supports administrative and organizational decisions and decisions to fight the enemy, but the slogan of independent decisionmaking is being used to deprive Palestinians of the commitment of non-Palestinian Arabs to their cause, he averred. On the subject of security in Lebanon, Al-Asad declared that Syria is working with the Lebanese to improve the security situation, while Israel is trying to prevent this.

Guest speakers whose remarks were broadcast by the radio included Libya's Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, "PNC Speaker" Khalid al-Fahum, and Lebanese political leaders. Jallud asserted to the congress that armed resistance in Lebanon will not stop at liberating the south but will pave the way to free Palestine. He urged the congress to draw up a plan to provide weapons, funds, and training to increase the struggle in southern Lebanon, claiming that Libya is ready to "face up to" its responsibilities toward the resistance war. Libya is also ready to use all its resources to support forces which decide to oppose Yasir 'Arafat, he announced. Libya's alliance with Syria should become a "unity," a fighting unity with a single international identity working for the political, ideological and military awakening of the region, he declared, adding that Syria and Libya should start "carrying out acts of violence" and also "accepting" acts of violence from the enemy.

The PLO continues to derive its strength from Syria's stand, according to Al-Fahum, who went on to reject the "deviation" led by 'Arafat and to declare the PNC meeting in Amman null and void.

In his speech to the congress, Lebanon's PSP Leader Walid Junblatt advocated Arab possession of nuclear weapons to

achieve a strategic balance with Israel, and expressed appreciation for Libya's efforts in this regard.

Jordan

Mubarak Visits — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak met with King Husayn in Aqaba on 5 January for talks on the current Arab situation and bilateral cooperation, Amman radio reported. After returning to Cairo the same day, Mubarak said their discussion had focused on the Palestinian issue, the Iran-Iraq war, and his forthcoming visit to the United States, according to MENA.

Egypt

In preparation for President Mubarak's summit talks during his upcoming visit to the United States, Egypt will undertake a series of diplomatic contacts with particular focus on increasing Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation and finding a solution for the Palestinian issue, according to an *AL-AHRAM* report cited by MENA. Egypt hopes Mubarak's visit will result in a fresh U.S. Middle East peace move. Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali declared in an *AL-RAY AL-'AMM* interview reported by KUNA. Queried about Israeli plans to establish settlements in southern Lebanon, 'Ali charged that such settlements would be a stark violation of the Camp David accords and Egypt will not continue to abide by the accords if Israel keeps violating them in letter and spirit.

Iraq-Iran conflict

Iraq is ready to confront Iran's "evil and aggression" for months or years, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn declared in an Army Day address broadcast on Voice of the Masses radio. If Tehran's rulers try another offensive, he warned, the results will be worse for Iran than the outcome of all previous battles. Saddam Husayn called for a pan-Arab effort against Iran's "new methods of sabotage" against the Arab nation, claiming that appeasement and silence have had no effect on Iran's regime. If international organizations do not move to protect Iraq's POW's in Iran, Iraq will use its own measures to punish the criminals, he asserted, adding that this does not mean Iraq will treat the Iranians in kind.

As for the Iraqi military capability, the Air Force will surprise the Iranians with new methods and advanced weapons "in the coming days," the Air Force commander declared, according to INA, while the Navy commander warned that ships must not approach Khark Island or other Iranian ports for they will be burned in the "suicide zone."

Meanwhile, Iraqi air raids in Ilam and Khuzestan Province on 4 January killed at least 10 people, IRNA reported. Although Iran does not need to retaliate in kind for last week's series of attacks on civilian targets, Tehran radio's Arabic service stated, Iran has the right to do so because Iraq has violated the agreement on avoiding targets arranged by the U.N secretary general. In a later development, IRNA announced that a U.N factfinding team is expected to visit the bombed areas in Khuzestan Province, noting that officials say the visit depends on a guarantee from Iraq that the areas will not be attacked during the U.N visit.

Iran

Security agents arrested three persons who attempted to hijack a passenger plane flying from Khorramabad to Tehran on 5 January, IRNA revealed. Government propaganda should mention problems and weaknesses as well as strengths to enlish the people's trust, and it should avoid exciting people and chanting slogans unnecessarily, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri declared in his Friday sermon, according to the radio.

Afghanistan

Military Draft — President Babrak Karmal decreed that military service for volunteers should be reduced from a 3-year term to 2 years, Kabul radio disclosed.

Mujahidin Activities — Last week mujahidin attacks killed 10 Soviet advisers in a residential complex in the Kabul area and considerably damaged Kabul Polytechnic University, according to reports cited by IRNA. Reports from Kabul say the mujahidin broke a Soviet-DRA siege in Farah Province, Karachi radio claimed. In a separate report the radio noted a former French Cabinet minister's statement that he had seen Soviet-DRA troops driven from a Konarha Province valley by the mujahidin, and that the Soviet-DRA forces are mining mujahidin supply routes.

Warnings to Pakistan — Citing a TASS report, Kabul radio charged on 5 January that Pakistan fired across the border 19 times in the past 2 months to prove its "gratitude and faithfulness to the generous Americans." The DRA's perseverance is not unlimited, the radio warned, stating in a later broadcast that if provocations continue from Pakistani territory the DRA is entitled to deliver a "crushing rebuff."

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'Arafat Returns to Tunis 6 Jan
LD062149 Kuwait KUNA in English 1647 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Tunis, Jan 6 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned here Sunday at the conclusion of an Arab tour. 'Arafat visited Saudi Arabia, South Yemen, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

'Arafat Discusses Palestinian Affairs, Jordan Ties
PM041416 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Dec 84 p 6

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Abdallah al-Jafri in Amman — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: In order to revive international interest in finding a just solution for the Palestinian problem, King Husayn suggested Resolution 242, which the PLO rejects. During your talks in the past 2 days, did you agree on a plan compatible with the PLO's stand?

Answer: In fact, the meetings that took place during the past 24 hours with King Husayn and brother Jordanian officials dealt with a number of issues, including your question regarding the Jordanian view on joint Jordanian-Palestinian action. We also discussed our view expressed by the PNC, namely the necessity and the importance of adhering to what the Arabs agreed upon at the Fes summit. There is no contradiction between the Jordanian view and the Palestinian view. The Jordanian view is based on the fact that Jordan, like Syria and Egypt, recognizes Resolution 242 as being the UN resolution to which all the parties are committed, the resolution means land in return for peace. Likewise Jordan is committed to what the Arabs committed themselves to at Fes.

Question: It was said that Italian Prime Minister Craxi suggested to you that you recognize Israel so that he can put forward a new Italian initiative. What progress has been made in your talks?

Answer: To be fair Craxi did not deal with this issue directly, but discussed the UN resolutions and the international initiatives that have been put forward. Some of these initiatives clearly refer to mutual recognition, but he did not discuss an Italian initiative in this respect. What took place between him and myself I consider to be very important talks that dealt with the problem from all its aspects and the relevant developments, including the recent EC summit in Dublin, following which Craxi and his foreign minister, Andreotti, met with me on the grounds that beginning January 1985 Italy will be the next EEC chairman. After discussing our views and the Italian views, we agreed to resume contacts some other time so as to hold more detailed talks than we had at this meeting. This, God willing, will take place after Italy officially assumes the EEC chairmanship.

On this occasion I would like to praise Prime Minister Craxi's brave and daring attitude both before and after the meeting with me, in view of the violent storm he faced which was raised by some parties. It is true that these parties have only a small representation in the parliament but they have created a big uproar over this subject. The minister who led this uproar was the same man who was prime minister when I visited Italy on an earlier occasion and raised the same issue. This was a repeated and fabricated uproar. But I would like to thank Prime Minister Craxi and Mr Andreotti for their brave and positive stand on the just cause of the Palestinian people. I must also point to Greek Prime Minister Papandreou's splendid stand at the Dublin conference and the positive stand adopted by the Spanish side. Among the things I also discussed with Prime Minister Craxi was the proposed international conference which has been approved by all the Arab countries and by the Soviet Union and China. Only two countries object to it, namely the United States and Israel.

Question: Do you believe that you have succeeded or not in achieving national unity through convening the PNC?

Answer: I would like here to give a precise answer so that the meaning of national unity will be understood by all.

The national unity of the Palestinian people has never been stronger than it is today. You only have to point to the total support and backing the PLO is enjoying from its popular bases both inside and outside the occupied territories. A glance at reports from foreign press agencies and even enemy press agencies about such support is sufficient proof.

The conclusion to be drawn here is that the Palestinian people are rallying around the PLO more than ever and giving it support and backing.

I would like to remind you that, in the past, five fronts set up what they called the rejection front. They were backed by some Arab countries. Did this affect the march of the Palestinian Arab people or national unity? Now there are a number of Palestinian factions that have not attended the PNC, but I would say that the door is open for them to do so following the success of the PNC in establishing this popular rallying around the PLO and the fact that it is the leader and sole representative of our people. The door is open to anyone who wishes to rejoin the caravan. Political agreement among them is always subject to discussion and to political interpretations. [as published]

Do not call it Palestinian unity, because there can be no unity between the Ba'thist trend, the communist trend, the Marxist trend, the Islamic trend, the patriotic trend, or the nationalist trend. But all these organizations could agree among themselves to be integrated within the PNC, the Palestinian parliament. We have not stopped the dialogue; it is still open. We have reserved vacant places on the Executive Committee and the Central Council for those brothers who wish to board the revolution's train.

Question: You have accused certain parties colluding with the opposition of withdrawing money from the PLO's funds and placing it in personal accounts. What is the truth about these accusations?

Answer: Unfortunately some money was withdrawn and the matter is being dealt with. When a certain sum was transferred we asked the people involved why they had done it. They said

We thought that you were going withhold payments to the [Palestinian] army and employees stationed in Syria. But it became clear to them following the resolutions adopted by the PNC and the Executive Committee that this was not true and that nobody was going to be deprived [of pay] because these are the funds of the Palestinian people and no Palestinian individual should be deprived of them. The matter is being dealt with.

Question: Recent reports spoke of the existence of Palestinian arms factories.

Of what value are arms of this kind in places thousands of kilometers from Palestine?

Answer: Arms whether near or far are still arms. Today I wish I had placed arms in distant places from the beginning so that I would not be compelled to rebuild.

Previously I was compelled to site it [the arms industry] in Lebanon because there was no possibility of siting it elsewhere. As the war came this was destroyed. However, as the proverb says, you should not overextend yourself. We are trying to compensate for some of the arms which we find difficult to obtain. I would say with pride that our experts have made great efforts to rebuild rapidly what was destroyed in Lebanon.

I would like to greet and express heartfelt thanks to the Arab countries that have accepted our factories on their territory. You should have seen how our engineers, experts, and scientists built factories with their own hands.

You would have seen a doctor, engineer, or expert casting concrete with his own hands or building a hanger side by side with the laborers. I will never in my life forget this. Because if it were not for this enthusiasm we would not have been able to rebuild our factories with such speed. On this occasion I would like to add that we have added certain sophisticated things. I would like also to say that products reach the places they are supposed to reach and the rest are stored.

Salah Khalaf Addresses Meeting in Doha

JN041734 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, has called for convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible and for achieving Arab and Islamic solidarity in order to confront Zionist and imperialist designs.

During a popular meeting in Doha last night, Brother Abu Iyad affirmed that armed struggle against the Zionist enemy is the only way to establish the independent Palestinian state.

Brother Abu Iyad said the convocation of the PNC in Amman entrenched the Palestinian people's national unity. He indicated that the PLO is seeking to deepen and broaden its relations with those countries that recognize the justice of its cause and the legitimacy of its struggle, foremost of which are the Islamic and nonaligned countries. Abu Iyad called for ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Qatari Paper Interviews Fatah's Salah Khalaf

GF061644 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Doha, 6 Jan (WAKH) — Central Committee member of Fatah, Salah Khalaf, said that the Iran-Iraq war had affected the Palestinian revolution like it did have an imprint on the policy and economy of the Gulf region.

In an interview with Qatari *AL-RAYAH* Arabic daily, Khalaf said that the Palestinian revolution had made three pronged drives within the Arab, Muslim and non-aligned camps in order to end the war between the two Muslim neighbours but all efforts had stumbled in the middle of the course as a result of Iranian insistence on specific demands for stopping the war and for getting compensation.

Khalaf called for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold and stressed: "We do not want the Egyptian people to abandon Camp David because we would be asking for the impossible, but the aim is that Egypt should return to lead the Arab camp."

Armed struggle remains the option which the Palestinian revolution insists to pursue despite the difficulties, Khalaf said, because the Zionist entity and America, he pointed, do not wish to see anything that bears the name of Palestine or the PLO and Zionist percepts are based on wiping out the prevailing Palestinian identity.

Replying to a question on the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd al Qawasmi, Khalaf said the PLO will not resort to methods of murder and terrorism but will enter into political battles with opposition groups in order to regain the Palestinian national unity.

More on Armed Struggle

JN061728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has stressed that armed struggle is the PLO's major option despite all the difficulties facing this option. In a statement published in Doha today, Brother Abu Iyad said the PLO will continue on the road to achieving the Palestinian people's objective of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital. Brother Abu Iyad defined the necessary requirements to settle the Palestine question. He said these requirements are represented in unifying the Arab forces, settling differences, stopping the Iraq-Iran war, and stopping interference in PLO affairs.

Qaddumi on Italian 'Duty' To Begin Peace Moves

AU070856 Rome ANSA in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, January 7 — The ability of Europe to bring pressures to bear on Washington in foreign policy matters was cast in strong doubt by Faruq Qaddumi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's foreign affairs chief, in an interview published in three Italian dailies Sunday.

"Experience shows that the Americans can exert [no additional word as received] on the Europeans, not vice versa," Qaddumi told Italian journalists who were in Amman Friday and Saturday for Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti's two-day visit to the Jordanian capital.

"I believe that it is Italy's duty to set peace moves into motion inside the realm of the European Community," Qaddumi argued, adding that Rome authorities should try to revive the Venice declaration. (The European Community came out with a stance in favor of the Palestinians playing an active part in the Middle East peace process during summit talks in Venice in 1980).

The Europeans, according to the PLO's Political Department chief, could conceivably undertake a peace initiative and press the Americans to abide by it. "But I doubt that will happen," he was quick to add, airing his skepticism vbout the ability of Europe to affect Washington's Middle East policies.

Qaddumi who, as diplomatic chief of the PLO, stands second in rank to Yasir 'Arafat, took pains to clear up any misunderstandings about where the PLO stood in plans to establish a confederation arrangement with Jordan and denied that Jordan will ever be authorized to represent the Palestinians in peace talks.

"The PLO remains the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and there is no possibility of it delegating its powers to others.

"The PLO wants to take part in all negotiations affecting its people."

"A unitary platform, however, is currently being drafted, and is almost ready."

The PLO official squelched allegations that a "moderate (political) front" is emerging between Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization. "There is no such front," he insisted, "just some countries which are developing their relations better than others."

"We don't want to create any poles inside the Arab world...we are fighting for the organization of a summit conference that will strengthen Arab solidarity and foster support for our struggle," he stressed.

The PLO's "faith" and "politics" are one, Qaddumi explained, that of "creating new processes in the Middle East from which developments and changes may stem."

Al-Wazir Temporarily Assumes Al-Qawasimi Post

JN061140 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 6 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] During its recent meeting in Amman, the PLO Executive Committee decided to entrust Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief, with the task of running the PLO occupied homeland affairs department until a successor to martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi is chosen.

Reportage on Plot for Further Assassinations

More Assassination Attempts Feared

GF041419 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 3 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source informed *AL-QABAS* in Amman of new fears by the Palestinian leadership that there was a plot behind the assassination of Mr Fahd al-Qawasimah, PLO Executive Committee member and deported mayor of Hebron, which is also aimed at assassinating two other Executive Committee members in order to deprive the committee of a quorum and the legitimacy of holding meetings and adopting official decisions.

The source said that as a result of these fears, security has been tightened to protect committee members who live in Amman, particularly 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Muhammad Milhim, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya. The source added that the plot's success in assassinating two more committee members after Al-Qawasimah will leave the committee with only eight members, whereas an official quorum requires the presence of nine members. Hence, the process of securing a quorum would be at the mercy of the three organizations whose seats remain vacant.

Mr Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front, told *AL-QABAS* in Damascus that what is needed now is to convene a new unified PNC session to resolve the disputes which, according to him, were deepened by the Amman conference. Mr 'Abd Rabbuh said that the meeting place for the Palestinian-Palestinian dialogue is not important, but that holding it in Damascus may help resolve many disputes.

'Sources' Report Assassination List

GF051730 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 4 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Sattar Jabbar]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources disclosed to *AL-WATAN* yesterday that a U.S.-Zionist plot prepared and supervised by the CIA exists with the aim of embroiling the Palestinian organizations in internal disputes and escalating the campaign of exchanged accusations. The sources pointed out that this plot is being implemented in three stages. The first stage was represented in removing the Palestinian resistance movement from Beirut and eventually from the rest of Lebanon. The second stage was represented in stirring hostilities among the Palestinian organizations with the aim of launching a war of exchanged assassinations and blasting any efforts to reconcile the views of the various Palestinian factions with regard to the unity of the PLO.

The third stage is represented in preventing the convening of the Arab summit conference until the Palestinian military presence is liquidated.

With regard to the war of assassinations that is being prepared for in the Palestinian arena by the CIA, these sources pointed out that Fahd al-Qawasimah's assassination last Saturday was part of this plot and that there is a list of assassinations that include

a number of the most prominent Palestinian leaders from various organizations.

These sources added that the American plot necessitates the participation of a number of Arab states in the campaign of exchanged accusations.

The same sources disclosed that the Soviet Union warned the Palestinian organizations about this plot and urged them not to become involved in exchanging accusations, and said that a number of Arab states support the Soviet Union's stand and have actually held urgent contacts recently to calm the situation in the Palestinian arena.

Assassination Squad Members Named

JN071121 Amman AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jan 85 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman — Responsible Palestinian sources have revealed the names of the members of assassination squads which arrived in Italy, Spain, and Greece last week to assassinate several Palestinian figures who are residing in Europe. The sources added that these squads comprise 15 members who are carrying forged Lebanese, Moroccan, and North Yemeni passports and are travelling under the following false names: Hasan Muhammad Yusuf al-Qadiri, Isma'il Mahmud Jawad, Usamah 'Isa 'Abd al-Rahim, Ishaq Salah 'Awwad, Salim 'Ali Hasan Abu Dayyah, Hassan Subh Ahmad Hajaj, Hasan Mustafa Salim Salim Jum'a Salim 'Atiyyat, Samir Muhammad Ahmad Abu Shami, Shukri Ramadan Ahmad, Shafiq Ahmad Salim Turbi, Salim Ibrahim Ahmad, Salah Sa'adah Yusuf Shihadan, Sami Hasan 'Abdallah al-'Id, and Hasan Muslih Abu Khalil.

The sources added that Arab and international security organs have been contacted and that an all-points bulletin has been issued. The sources said that PLO offices in Europe have taken precautionary measures to deal with any eventual attack by these squads which had deployed in Europe from an Arab country.

Resistance Men Launch Missiles at Israeli Base

JN061731 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men launched two missiles at a Zionist military base in occupied southern Lebanon today. The enemy army sources admitted this operation, but claimed that the two missiles exploded near the base and that the explosion resulted in no casualties. However, eyewitnesses said that Zionist military ambulances were seen rushing to the scene.

DFLP Condemns Sudanese Airlift Assistance

JN051307 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Reacting to Sudan's assistance to Ethiopian Jews emigrating to Israel, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued a statement expressing the Front's condemnation of the flagrant collusion and conspiracy by Sudan's ruler against the Sudanese people and their pains and hunger and against the Palestinian people's rights, struggle, and sacrifices. The statement also called on the PLO leadership to condemn, expose, and boycott the Numayri regime's move. It also added that the Front calls on the Arab countries to impose a boycott on Numayri's regime according to the Arab summit's resolutions. It called on all the Arab and world liberation forces to condemn the Sudanese president's regime.

The statement added that the Front calls on the friendly Ethiopian revolution, which condemned the Numayri regime's role in the operation, to investigate the incident and to expose and reveal that role before Africa, the Arabs, and the world. This step would not have been taken if the forces of revolution and the PLO had been unified, as the statement put it. Therefore, the Front stresses the importance of starting a comprehensive national dialogue to achieve a unionist PNC to confront the dangers that are threatening the Palestinian revolution and people.

BAHRAIN

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives 6 Jan

GF061730 Manama Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Bahrain from Kuwait today on a 2-day visit within his tour of a number of the region's states. During the visit he will hold talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and means of developing them, current Gulf, Arab, and international issues, in addition to issues of mutual concern.

He was received at the airport by the foreign minister and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Fatah's Khalaf Stops in Bahrain, Makes Statement

GF041354 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Manama, 4 Jan (WAKH) — Mr Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), Fatah Central Committee member, called for the convening of the Arab summit conference as soon as possible and for restoring Arab solidarity in order to confront the Zionist plans plotted against the Palestinians and the Arab nation.

In a statment to WAKH during his stopover from Doha in Bahrain airport today, Abu Iyad said that Palestinian-Jordanian coordination in the upcoming stage is aimed at finding a joint move on many issues facing the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. In his statement, Abu Iyad praised the aid provided by the GCC countries to the Palestinian revolution and said that the relationship between the PLO and the GCC states is close and strong, and that the dangers facing the Arab nation are the same dangers that face the PLO.

Mr Khalaf called for an immediate stop to the Iraq-Iran war through peaceful means that would guarantee the rights of both parties, pointing out that the continuation of this war exhausts Arab and Islamic resources and benefits no one but the Zionist enemy and its allies.

Mr Khalaf condemned the recent assassination in Amman of Fahd al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee member and deported mayor of Hebron. He said that the cowardly and treacherous hands which assassinated Al-Qawasimi will not be content with this action. He added that they are plotting to assassinate other leaders and that it is our duty to be cautious in the upcoming stage.

Mr Khalaf saluted the support for the PLO by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in the refugee camps of southern Lebanon and saluted their heroic struggle against the Zionist enemy's plans, which are aimed at weakening the PLO and imposing hegemony on it.

He pointed out that the Palestinian people will not be influenced by these plots or these assassinations and that the revolution will continue until full victory is achieved under the leadership of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

AL-ADWA' on U.S. Anti-Terrorist Force

GF050800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 5 Jan (WAKH) — The Bahraini weekly newspaper *AL-ADWA'* emphasized that the "anti-terrorist U.S. force" is only a terrorist force especially set up to terrorize weak countries. In its editorial today, *AL-ADWA'* said: "This force is set up to conduct limited wars against the peoples of the Third World to keep them under the U.S. grip if they seek freedom and free national will."

AL-ADWA' called this U.S. plan "a ha'lucination to use force and to go back to the old times of imperialist domination in handling weak peoples." "It is an intrusion and ugly interference, although it is hidden by weak and tired pleas and excuses to fight communist infiltration. It is a false excuse and a blatant conspiracy," the paper added.

In conclusion, the newspaper said: "What is strange is that the United States is clamoring that it is fighting world terrorism while it forms a terrorist force of thousands of personnel and equips it with tactical nuclear weapons. This makes U.S. terrorism violent, total, and blatant, thus preventing peoples from practicing their right to choose their ways independently and choose their national systems."

KUWAIT

Reportage on Visit of Turkish Foreign Minister

Halefoglu Arrives, Begins Talks

LD051027 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0921 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Jan (KUNA) — Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu conferred here today with Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait heir apparent and prime minister.

There is no official information about what took place during the meeting, which was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of foreign affairs and minister of information, but it is believed that they discussed the growing bilateral relations between the two countries and the situation in the region, especially the Iraq-Iran war.

Turkey is a member of the Islamic Good Offices Committee which was commissioned by the ICO to work towards finding a solution for the conflict in the Gulf.

Halefoglu arrived in Kuwait last night on a 2-day visit. An official source said that he will convey to Amir Jabir al-Sabah a message, whose contents have not been revealed, from Turkish President Kenan Evren.

Gulf Affairs, Joint Projects Discussed

LD051731 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, who is on an official visit to Kuwait, met Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. He later conferred with Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. Bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war, and the Cyprus and Middle East problems were discussed at both meetings. The two sides also discussed the joint investment company to be established by Turkey and Kuwait and the fertilizer complex to be built in Mersin by Turkey, Kuwait, and Tunisia.

Halefoglu was received by Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah this morning. The foreign minister will leave Kuwait for Bahrain tomorrow. He will return to Turkey on 8 January.

Further on Talks

LD051743 Kuwait KUNA in English 1408 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 5 (KUNA) — The official round of Turkish-Kuwaiti talks at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters Saturday tackled a host of bilateral and global issues topped by the Iraq-Iran war and the serious impact of its continuation.

Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, who led the Kuwait team, told reporters that the two sides discussed current contacts on various levels aimed at finding a solution to the Gulf war and ending the two Muslim neighbors' human and material drain.

He explained that the Turkish party, led by Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, who arrived in Kuwait late Friday on a two-day official visit, has asserted that Ankara was most concerned in terminating this war and expressed the belief that its continuation poses unlimited dangers.

No new proposals were tabled during the talks but rather a comprehensive exchange of views was made on present mediation bids, Shaykh Sabah elaborated. The talks covered bilateral relations and means of fostering them in various fields, the Kuwaiti chief diplomat underlined.

The Kuwaiti party led by Shaykh Sabah grouped Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary Rashid al-Rashid, Director of the Minister's Office Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and Abdul al-Qanai from the Political Department, while the Turkish team was headed by Halefoglu, including his country's ambassador to Kuwait and members of the accompanying delegation.

The deputy premier later gave a luncheon in honor of the Turkish guests at his residence in Dasman.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD061733 Kuwait KUNA in English 1614 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA) — Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu left here for Bahrain Sunday evening at the end of a two-day official visit. He was seen off at the airport by Deputy Premier Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Foreign Undersecretary Rashid al-Rashid and the Turkish ambassador to Kuwait.

While in Kuwait, the Turkish foreign minister delivered a message to H.H. the amir from Turkish President Kenan Evren and was received by H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. He also held talks with the deputy premier on bilateral ties and reviewed efforts underway to resolve the four-year war between Iran and Iraq.

AL-QABAS on Airlift of Ethiopian Falashas

LD060819 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0726 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Kuwait 6 Jan (KUNA) — A local newspaper today criticized the stance of the United States and Sudan regarding the transporting of thousands of Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine. *AL-QABAS* expressed amazement over the U.S. aid and donations for rescuing citizens of a left-wing country, Ethiopia, in spite of its teaching that "politics does not have a conscience."

AL-QABAS called upon Arab countries to adopt a firm stand towards Sudan regarding the migration of Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine. It said: "Denials will not convince anyone now that the Sudanese regime is not directly involved, with premeditation and for a price, in the crime of transporting thousands of Falashas to occupied Palestine to be added to the nightmare there and to prolong the life of the occupation."

The newspaper concluded its commentary by saying it would not be acceptable today for Arab countries to avoid adopting a firm stand towards the Sudanese crime by claiming that Arab disputes obstruct the adoption of a united stand.

OMAN

Foreign Minister Receives Message From PDRY

GF061254 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1155 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Muscat, 6 Jan (WAKH) — Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, received today a written message from PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. Muscat radio said that the message deals with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. No further details were given.

SAUDI ARABIA

'UKAZ on Zionist Goals Behind Ethiopian Airlift

GF061110 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Jan 85

[From the press review program]

[Text] Commenting on the new Jewish airlift, the newspaper 'UKAZ said today that Israel's piracy operation in setting up a

secret air bridge since November 1984 to transfer the Ethiopian Jews is a disgraceful attempt of international Zionism to appear before the international community as the defender and rescuer of the Jews, after facing the denunciation of the international community for its crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and for its continued aggression against the Arab nation.

The paper said that the immigration of this huge number of Ethiopian Jews does not aid the economic situation in Israel, or the substantial amounts of aid which it wants to receive from the United States. The paper said that Israel would not have brought out the great number of Jews from Ethiopia if there had not been wicked goals behind this Zionist step. The truth is that the Zionist entity desires, under its claim of rescuing and protecting the Jews, to make use of the immigrants in orde. to compensate for the emigration from the occupied territory. It also desires to make use of those who come from Ethiopia in order to increase and expand the Zionist settlement network, about which news reports recently unveiled Israel's intention to set up similar networks in southern Lebanon in addition to increasing the number of the settlements in the occupied West Bank.

'Arafat Arrives in Jeddah, Meets ICO's Pirzada

JN061714 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada in Jeddah today. Our correspondent has learned that the two sides discussed recent developments in the Palestine question and the Iraq-Iran war and ways to stop it. Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar arrived in Jeddah last night from the UAE.

UAE

Foreign Minister Receives Velayati Message

GF061300 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1225 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jan (WAM) — Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has received a message from 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister, on bilateral relations and current developments in the region.

The message was delivered to Ya'qub al-Kindi, acting under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, during his meeting today with Muhammad 'Arab, Iranian assistant foreign minister for administrative and financial affairs, who is visiting the UAE. The Iranian ambassador to the UAE, Mahmud Sadat Madar-Shahi, attended. The Iranian official arrived in the UAE last night for a 2-day visit.

Omani Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Defense Minister

GF051000 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Defense Minister Muhammad ibn Rashid received in his office today Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah who arrived in the country earlier today on a short visit that will last for a few hours.

After the meeting, Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah said that his visit comes within the framework of continued consultations between officials in the two fraternal countries particularly after the recent summit meeting in the city of Al-'Ayn between His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and His Maejsty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman. He said he discussed with Muhammad ibn Rashid means of furthering fraternal relations between the two countries for the good of their peoples and the entire region.

PLO's 'Arafat Meets Defense Minister, Kriesky

GF051002 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left the country today after a short visit. During this visit, he met with former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky who is vacationing at the Jabal 'Ali Hotel in Dubayy.

The Palestinian leader was seen off at Dubayy Airport by Defense Minister Muhammad ibn Rashid, PLO representative to the UAE Anis al-Khatib, and a number of senior officials.

Prior to his departure, 'Arafat met with Defense Minister Muhammad ibn Rashid. During the meeting, which was attended by the PLO representative to the UAE, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas, and the proposed initiative to resolve these issues.

Heir Apparent Meets Kreisky 6 Jan

GF061904 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jan (WAKH) — Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, UAE heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has stated that the success of any initiative, effort, or conference to establish peace in the Middle East basically hinges on what the Palestinian people will accept under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. This also hinges on the PLO's equal representation in any initiative or efforts that may be made or conferences that may be held to settle this issue.

This statement came during an audience with Austrian ex-Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Abu Dhabi this evening. During theirmeeting, they discussed current developments in the Middle East and efforts being made to establish peace in the region. Bruno Kreisky briefed Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid on the outcome of his recent meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Dubayy on 4 January.

Shaykh Khalifah affirmed that the Arab nation is seeking peace, on the condition that it will be just and durable and is based on the Israeli forces' withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. He also affirmed the support of the UAE president, government, and people for the Palestinian people's struggle until they regain their usurped rights and achieve their

right to self determination, and their right to return and set up an independent state on their homeland. He expressed the hope that the superpowers and international community would shoulder their responsibility toward this just cause so as to serve world peace.

He praised the positive initiatives which the former Austrian chancellor is making for the Palestinian cause and his active efforts for the Middle East crisis which are characterized by even-handedness and objectivity.

AL-BAYAN Scores Formation of U.S. Commando Unit

GF050714 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0605 GMT 5 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Dubayy, 5 Jan (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-BAYAN* expressed Arab concern about the news that the United States is training a 15,000-strong special commando unit equipped with nuclear weapons to wage "short-term and ugly" wars in the Third World. "This means that U.S. leaders have no limits on possible ugly U.S. wars in the Third World in which nuclear weapons will be used. It is possible that a single incident, such as a hijacking or a clash outside the premises of a diplomatic mission, will be enough for the U.S. Administration to use its tactical nuclear weapons against the Third World peoples," *AL-BAYAN* said.

The paper warned about the gravity of this U.S. step, adding that "this means the U.S. Administration has become a prisoner to the logic of solving problems it will face in the Third World using the nuclear and non-nuclear weapons it possesses." It described this as a policy more serious than the one that put the United States in the Vietnam quagmire in the early 60s. Although the Americans were mired in Vietnam at that time, no U.S. civilian or military official could dare to ponder the idea of using nuclear weapons, the paper added.

AL-BAYAN emphasized that the idea of having nuclear units ready to intervene anywhere in the world will be a serious threat to world peace and humanity, saying that the Americans forget that they are not the only country which possesses nuclear weapons.

AL-BAYAN called on the human conscience to counter this U.S. step of annihilating the world. "Perhaps the human conscience which is moved to save wild animals from extinction will quickly and strongly move to stop this U.S. policy which will only lead to the extinction of the human race," the paper concluded.

YAR

Diplomatic Relations Established With Niger

GF041640 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Sanaa, 4 Jan (WAKH) — Yemen Arab Republic and Niger have decided to establish diplomatic ties between them at the ambassadorial level as of tomorrow (Saturday), the North Yemeni Foreign Ministry said. The ministry, in a statement issued today, said the decision was derived from the two sides adherence to the targets set by the ICO and Nonaligned Movement and their commitment to promote bilateral relations.

Relations Established With Comoros

GF061758 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 85

["Text" of statement issued by YAR Foreign Ministry on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros — date not given]

[Text] Stemming from their beliefs in the targets set by the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement, their adherence to the United Nations Charter, and their commitment to strengthening relations between their fraternal peoples, the YAR and the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of Monday, 7 January 1985.

Mubarak Returns to Cairo After Meeting Husayn

NC051543 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this evening from the port of Aqaba following a 5-hour visit to Jordan, during which he met with King Husayn.

On his arrival in Cairo, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said his meeting with King Husayn falls within the framework of ongoing consultations with his majesty, the king. Mubarak added: I offered him my opinion and listened to him on various issues of common interest to our countries.

The president said: We discussed the current status of the Palestinian issue and how we will act on this issue, which must be given momentum if it is not to wither away.

Mubarak concluded: Our coming actions, particularly my upcoming visit to the United States, figured high among the issues that were discussed. We also discussed the Iraq-Iran war and the Arab situation in general.

Mubarak Receives 'Urgent' Message From Al-Jumayyil

NC051308 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil today sent an urgent message to President Husni Mubarak on Lebanese developments. Ambassador 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sulh, chairman of the Lebanese interests in Cairo, conveyed the message to Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. Dr Ghali assured the Lebanese ambassador that Egypt is following up with interest what is taking place in the Lebanese arena and that it supports everything that helps toward the realization of the immediate and complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon so that the Lebanese Government may be able to exercise its full sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

Mubarak Interviewed on Possible Meeting With Peres

NC060645 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA) — In an interview to be published on 7 January by the U.S. magazine *U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT*, President Mubarak said that he is ready to meet at once with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, but he added, what is the use of such a meeting if there are no guarantees for making progress.

During the interview, which was conducted by (Ranan Lorn), a prominent columnist known for his sarcastic political writings, the president said that he has no objection to meeting Peres, but that the Egyptian public would expect satisfactory results. Mubarak added: This is why I told Peres several times, and I believe he is convinced, that we should proceed by steps for such a meeting.

The U.S. magazine devoted a whole page to President Mubarak's interview, with the opposite page featuring an interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Both interviews concentrate on the prospects for a lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict and the existing differences between Egypt and Israel which influence such a settlement.

Good preparations are needed for such a meeting to be held and to yield results. I know that such a meeting could forward relations, but it should take place at the proper time and in the appropriate manner. I would not want to make a mistake in relations between Egypt and Israel, because such a mistake will take a long time to correct, Mubarak said.

There are constant contacts between myself and Peres. I, like late President al-Sadat, opt for direct contacts. I send envoys to Peres and he also sends me envoys. This is how we communicate. I would like to move forward with Peres and I am looking forward to meeting him in the near future, the president added.

Regarding Israel's occupation of Lebanon, Mubarak said: I know that Israel wants to withdraw completely from Lebanon to avoid bloodshed and human losses among the Israelis. I would say that an Israeli withdrawal would be a very encouraging sign, not only to Egypt but to other Arab countries.

The president added: Another very important matter is Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, which is only 25 km away from Damascus. Israel's withdrawal from such positions would make a very favorable impression in the Arab world. I believe Peres knows this perfectly well.

Answering a question about the Camp David accords, Mubarak said that the spirit of Camp David has not materialized. He said: As you know, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said during his visit to Israel that the Israelis did not interpret Camp David in the way that was agreed upon. Negotiations within the framework of Camp David stalemated in 1981 when former Israeli President Begin was in power. Begin had a different understanding of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and we did not agree with him.

President Mubarak added: Sometimes voices accusing Egypt of violating the Camp David accords are heard in Israel. I do not pay any attention to such voices because I am interested in peace not only between Egypt and Israel, but in the whole region. All that I am doing in the Arab world and in Europe is for the establishment of peace.

Kuwait's AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Interviews 'Ali

NC051258 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Jan (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has declared that that Egypt is working to promote the efforts for a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian problem and that there have developments in the U.S. and Palestinian positions encouraging the promotion of these efforts. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, published today, 'Ali said Egypt hopes that President Mubarak's coming visit to Washington will result in a new U.S. viewpoint that will accelerate the efforts for a settlement. He also said that what is required at the present stage is a demonstration

of goodwill by all parties, and the start of negotiations. He added: There is no need for new plans or initiatives.

'Ali declared that Egypt and the Arab states have some reservations about U.S. President Reagan's initiative, but this does not mean that the Arab states cannot engage in a dialogue or adopt a unified stand. He said that the convocation of the PNC in Amman was a positive development, but to what extent the PLO and Jordan will move together is first and foremost up to the PLO.

Concerning the restoration of relations between Egypt and the Arab states, 'Ali said that during the Baghdad summit there was no unanimity to boycott Egypt. Therefore, there is no need for unanimity or for an amendment to the Arab League Charter as a condition for Egypt's return to the Arab nation.

Concerning the Iraqi-Iranian war, 'Ali said that Egypt submitted its views on how to end this war to the nonaligned states for discussion. It is obvious that the Iranian stand is still intransigent. He expressed the hope for an early end to this war, which is deterimental to the interests of the two warring states, as well as to the interests of the Islamic states.

Speaking about economic relations between Egypt and the Arab states, 'Ali said these relations exist between Egypt and several Arab states. Employment [of Egyptian workers in Arab countries] has not been affected by diplomatic stands. The restoration of relations will promote economic cooperation in several fields.

Speaking about the features of Egyptian strategy in the coming period, 'Ali said that although there are fundamental strategic principles, strategy itself is not something rigid. Egypt's strategy is to work to promote efforts for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem, which is to say, the Palestinian problem.

From this standpoint, [we must act] in accordance with the new changes, some of which we consider to be positive, such as the renewal of the legitimacy of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the convocation of the PNC, the restoration of Jordanian-Egyptian relations, and the recent developments in Israel, which although incomplete, are an indication that there has been some change. In addition to this, there is President Reagan's reelection, which from the U.S. point of view means there is no need for a 2-year waiting period before an attempt is made to resolve the issue. Egyptian strategy can take all these changes into consideration this year and use them to promote the efforts toward a settlement.

Asked about his evaluation of the ICO foreign ministers conference in Sanaa, 'Ali said the conference made some progress and its resolutions were in full harmony with the objectives of the ICO, which is among the few international organizations moving in the right direction. The ICO is promoting relations among Islamic states and is emphasizing the Islamic world's cultural heritage.

Asked what he expects from President Mubarak's coming visit to Washington concerning a resolution of the Palestinian problem in light of the positive Egyptian-U.S. relations, 'Ali said: We hope this visit will produce new U.S. activity or a new U.S. viewpoint regarding a solution. As for bilateral issues and topics, we also hope that this visit will result in some progress in the sphere of economic relations and in other areas.

Asked if he expects U.S. President Reagan to adopt more positive stands toward the issue, the prime minister said: I believe that President Reagan previously said that he does not intend to change his initiative. I also believe that there are many initiatives in the arena, and therefore, it is absolutely unnecessary to propose new initiatives or to change positions. Good intentions should be displayed at the negotiations table so that matters can be discussed, step by step, until an agreement is reached.

Asked if he means the international conference, he said: I am not talking about any formulas, but the international conference is possible and so are U.S. efforts.

He pointed out that some Arab countries have reservations about Reagan's initiative, adding that Egypt also has reservations. But this does not mean that we should not sit down together or not hold a dialogue. However, we must first consult with the Arab states.

Regarding the initiative by King Husayn of Jordan and the Palestinian viewpoint, 'Ali said: Some aspects of the PLO's viewpoint and strategy have emerged. However, how far the PLO will go is a matter that depends on the PLO alone. It is a very good sign that the PNC meeting took place in Amman and that a dialogue has been held between the PLO and Jordan. However, how far this will go and what the target will be are matters, as I have said, which depend on the PLO alone.

Expressing an opinion about Israel's rejection of an international conference and its rejection of all initiatives, including the Reagan initiative, 'Ali said: Israel's stance is undoubtedly inflexible. It is this inflexibility, in addition to Israel's other actions, which prompted Egypt to freeze bilateral relations and to ask its ambassador to Tel Aviv to return to Egypt. We hope that Israel will make a move toward a solution. Shim'on Peres has expressed a desire for a solution, but time alone will reveal how able he is to proceed along this course with the required seriousness.

Referring to the U.S. role in the peace efforts, 'Ali said: I believe that the U.S. role is one of the factors, but not the only one. Israel, undoubtedly shoulders a great responsibility and the Arab states shoulder a great responsibility as well. The U.S. role comes next. We must not wait for the United States alone, but we must expect everyone to play a role. The Arab states, as I have already said, have not yet agreed on one concept.

As for Israel, Peres' ability to achieve what he has advocated has not yet been manifested. The role of the United States and the extent of its ability comes at the end. The United States' ability depends, undoubtedly, on the will of the parties concerned and not on the imposition of U.S. will on these parties.

'Ali further said: What is positive in the Israeli stand is what Peres declared regarding the method for settling the issue and for easing the impact of the Israeli occupation on the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, although this has not yet been

done as we have advocated and demanded since 11 October 1978 when the negotiations with Israel started.

Regarding his assessment of the acceptance of the presence of multinational forces in Tabah and whether this would represent a backdown from previous Egyptian stands, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The presence of multinational forces does not represent any legal right for any side. We are confident that Tabah is 100 percent Egyptian. But the idea of negotiations has been proposed in accordance with the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. This idea, however, has been exhausted. This idea was followed by the proposal of conciliation and arbitration. I am confident that there is an Israeli conviction that this land is Egyptian. If it were not so, Israel would have never withdrawn from it in 1956. Israel must now prove its good intentions.

To a question about reports that a telephone call took place between President Mubarak and Peres on the subject, the prime minister said: I have no idea about this call, and that means it has not taken place.

In response to a question about Israeli settlement plans in southern Lebanon, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We have opposed the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. Egypt was, perhaps, the first Arab state to make serious moves in this regard. It is therefore natural for Egypt to completely reject any kind of settlements in southern Lebanon because this would constitute a blatant violation of Israel's commitments at Camp David. Settlement building in southern Lebanon would also motivate all parties to end the Israeli occupation through all possible means.

Asked if Egypt will continue to abide by the treaty unilaterally if Israel persists in violating its commitments, he said: This is something that you should ask Israel.

On recent developments in Egypt's relations with the Eastern bloc countries, the prime minister said: Egypt's economic relations with the Eastern bloc never stopped; they may have slowed down at a certain point, but they were never terminated. Our relations are quite normal. Though we have strong relations with the United States, with the majority of the Western states, and with Japan, this does not mean a contradiction between two stands, or between our dealings with the Eastern bloc and the Western bloc.

On relations with the Soviet Union, the prime minister said that the USSR has its own viewpoint on the Middle East situation, which differs from our own; each has his own stand. However, diverse views should not be an issue in good relations.

As to whether Egypt expects specific resolutions from the Arab summit, which, as has been reported, will be held before the end of this month, the prime minister said: Our only goal is for the Arab brothers to agree on anything other than the destruction of Arab solidarity.

Asked about reported efforts to amend the Arab League Charter, the prime minister said that the charter requires unanimity in only two cases — approval of accession to or dismissal from the league, neither of which apply to Egypt. Therefore, unanimity is not required. Furthermore, there was no unanimity on the decision to boycott Egypt at the Baghdad summit. Evidence of this is that three states — Sudan, Somalia, and the Sultanate of Oman — did not agree to the resolution. Where, then, is unanimity, and where is the Arab League Charter? We cannot accept unanimity as an excuse in any event.

Asked about reports that Iraq or North Yemen are the states that are most likely to resume relations with Egypt following Jordan, the prime minister said: We welcome any Arab state that wishes to restore Arab solidarity in its diplomatic sense. I say diplomatic, because we are in solidarity with all Arab issues and because Egypt's efforts in this context are quite clear. Therefore, we welcome any state that wants to restore full relations with Egypt. We do not have preferences, and we welcome any and all such states.

On the Egyptian initiative toward the Gulf war, the prime minister said: It constitutes an Egyptian view on means of ending the Gulf war, and that it was presented to the nonaligned states for discussion. It is clear that Iran's stand remains intransigent, whether in response to mediation by the UN secretary general, mediation by the Islamic nations, or mediation by the nonaligned states. It is obvious that Iran's hardline policy has not changed. We hope that this war will end in any way possible, because it is a true loss to the Islamic states and to the two warring states and peoples. This is indisputable.

He said that, in his estimation, Iran believes that it can bring economic pressure to bear on Iraq that will produce deterioration in the situation there, because of the Iraqi armaments operation.

Meanwhile, Iraq believes that it can put a halt to the pumping of Iranian oil or to its sale abroad. It is quite clear that both states have reached a strategic balance, in the sense that neither can have a greater economic impact on the other than that it itself is suffering. From the military viewpoint, there is a complete military balance between Iraq and Iran. Iraq has all the necessary means of defending itself. Its armament offsets Iran's numerical superiority. This military balance will not end the war, and there will be neither victor nor vanquished. Both will be exhausted. This, regrettably, is the fact.

Referring to the economic sphere in Egypt, 'Ali affirmed that the Higher Committee on Investment has worked from its inception to remove all obstacles to productive investment. He pointed out that the committee's achievements to date would encourage any investor — Egyptian, Arab, or foreign — to place his funds in Egypt.

In this respect, 'Ali noted that it has been decided to sell land in desert areas for industrial projects at the token price of 50 pounds per feddan, provided that the investor brings utilities to the area. He said that procedures for investors have been streamlined to the point where the Investment Committee decides on any application on the day that it is submitted, and decides on a project within 2 months of receiving the application.

'Ali pointed out that several projects within the 5-year development plan that were intended originally for state implementation have been handed over to the private sector, to increase the opportunities for investors. 'Ali also noted that there are no

problems for any Arab brothers who wish to buy apartments in Egypt.

He added that the annual conference in Egypt of Egyptian expatriates is intended to link Egyptian emigrants with their homeland, to acquaint them with the country's problems and needs, and to nurture links among Egyptians abroad, so that they may learn about the problems of the Arab world and act as Egyptian ambassadors abroad. He said that a company financed by Egyptian expatriates has been established with $25 million in working capital.

'Ali denied rumors about the formation of a new Cabinet or a reshuffling of the present government. He said that these rumors were circulated while he was indisposed, adding: As you can now see, I am well, thank God.

AL-AHRAM Reports 'Broad Diplomatic Move'

NC070623 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text]Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA) — Cairo's *AL-AHRAM* newspaper reports that Egypt will begin a broad diplomatic move in the next few days concentrating in particular on increasing the Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation and on pushing the Middle East question toward a solution and the achievement of the Palestinian people's rights.

In its Monday edition, *AL-AHRAM* adds that it has been decided that Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will pay an official visit to Jordan in April in return for the visit of Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat to Egypt. The talks during the visit will deal with increasing cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Committee which is presided over by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has said that the summit meeting in Al-'Aqabah between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn was an important step toward further coordination and understanding between Egypt and Jordan. He added that the talks between the Egyptian and Jordanian prime ministers will include the implementation of the ferry line between Nuwaybi' and Al-'Aqabah on schedule.

AL-AHRAM says that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will meet from 4-12 February with the British foreign secretary, the U.S. secretary of state, the French external relations minister, and the UN secretary general during his visit to Britain and the United States.

The paper notes that 'Abd al-Majid will meet with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. British Prime Mrs Margaret Thatcher is also expected to receive the Egyptian foreign minister during his visit to London.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid is due to meet in Washington on 7 and 8 February with U.S. Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz. 'Abd al-Majid will then go to New York where he will meet with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. He will afterward leave for Paris where he will meet for the first time with new French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid will receive in the next few days in Cairo the Netherlands foreign minister who will pay an official visit to Egypt within the framework of Egypt's intensive contacts with the European states.

This important diplomatic move comes within the framework of the preparations being made for the summit talks which President Mubarak will hold during his visit to the United States.

Saudi Prince on Resumption of Relations

NC060819 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA) — Saudi Prince Talal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Arab Gulf Program director, has affirmed that Egypt is a leading Arab country and that there will be no Arabs without Egypt. He said that what harms Egypt, harms Saudi Arabia and vice versa.

In an exclusive statement to today's issue of *AL-AHRAM*, Prince Talal pointed out that Egypt helped Saudi Arabia when it needed help. He said that it is impermissible to stop aid because of any differences, since aid goes to the people.

Prince Talal denied that Saudi Arabia is a hindrance to the restoration of Arab relations with Egypt, adding that Saudi Arabia would like to see a unanimous decision on this. Prince Talal expressed the hope that Egypt's return [to the Arab fold] would be done according to a unanimous decision that should be made at the next Arab summit conference, if it is held.

Saddam Husayn Delivers Army Day Speech

JN061034 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0903 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 64th anniversary of the foundation of the Army — live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Glorious Iraqis, brave fighters in the Iraqi Army and other Iraqi Armed Forces formations: On this auspicious day, the 64th anniversary of the foundation of the brave Iraqi Army, I extend to you greetings of victory and glory and greetings of strength and pride. Here is the Iraqi Army repeating glories, which many people thought had vanished in the darkness of the decadent ages, adding new brilliant pages to these glories, and linking the present to the past in a creative, innovative manner.

I am not exaggerating when I say that you brave men have exceeded, by your achievements, sacrifices, patience, endurance, bravery, and capability, the dreams of those devout men who worked for the building of this Army for scores of years. You have also more than fulfilled the hopes of your forefathers. You can thus be correctly considered the distinguished grandsons of those great forefathers, praise be to God. In this age, where the intention is to keep us weak and powerless in face of the great events and serious challenges, the achievement you have made, O sons of great Iraq, has a sublime historical value.

Our battle against the Iranian aggression was a historical challenge in every sense of this expression. It was a challenge in all the ideological, political, and economic fields. Many people thought that you would not remain steadfast in this battle. But you surprised both the enemies, who wished you defeat, and your brothers and friends who were stunned by your counteroffensive. You faced them with a historical surprise. For you did not only remain steadfast in this battle — which in itself is a great achievement — but also attained more sublime objectives.

While you fought powerfully and made precious sacrifices, you also continued the process of reconstruction and progress and enriched life in all fields. You continued to open horizons for the present and future. This is the greatest achievement that can be made by any people. In all the wars that have been fought by world nations in the past and the present — even those wars from which some nations emerged victorious — many of the processes of progress and reconstructions stopped, other than those processes that were directly linked to the war. You, however, are creating, innovating, building, and progressing in all fields of life, while you are waging the longest battle fought by any country in the world since World war II, and fighting a most evil, rancorous, and aggressive enemy and all its suspect evil alliances.

Thus, you did not only foil all plans and plots concocted against your country, but also started a new process of development for Iraq and the nation. While you are affirming your victory and ability to make progress and while the brilliant horizons of the present and the future are opening up before you, your enemy is experiencing a state of failure and frustration and the doors of the present and the future are closing before it. While you are making great successes in all the political, military, economic, and cultural fields and Iraq's position is elevated among its Arab brothers and its international status is strengthened, we see Iran experiencing a long period of failure in its false claims, political programs, and economic and cultural conditions. On the military level, the enemy's failure to achieve its expansionist ambitions is confirmed day after day and battle after battle. Furthermore, the enemy is becoming increasingly isolated internationally year after year.

This is the outcome of the duel between us over the past 5 years. This is the harvest which the Tehran regime has reaped from its rancorous adventure against great Iraq. We tell this regime: It is time you learned lessons from this abortive adventure. But if you still insist on evil and aggression, the brave Iraqis, who challenged you in all fields for 52 months, are completely ready to challenge you for more months and years in order to inflict more defeats, losses, and destruction on you.

Brethren: At such a time last year, the regime of the wicked and illiterate in Tehran was talking about the so-called decisive and last battle. We warned it against its reckless adventures and emphasized to it that we will crush its attacks if it dared to harm our territory and sovereignty. In February 1984, Tehran rulers massed tens of thousands of their retarded rabble and raided our forces and borders east of Basra, east of the Tigris, and east of Maysan. As we and our people pledged, the proud Iraqi Army wiped out these concentrations and backward waves one after the other, turning their adventure into a catastrophe for them and for their allies and those loyal to them. The battles of February became a landmark in military history — a landmark added to the success of Iraq and its capable Army — as well as an example of failure, defeat, and frustration for the enemy. They again tried their luck at Sayf Sa'd in November last year, prompted by delusions planted in their backward heads by their Arab allies. However, this adventure has also turned into rubble scattered about by the wind.

Today, Tehran rulers are spreading news about the dispatch of new concentrations to the front. They are blaring out statements on the continuation of the war and the launching of attacks on Iraq. They are maneuvering with their forces from one sector to another both in the north and south in the hope of finding a gap through which they can pass or a state that enables them to achieve their black dreams to occupy cherished Iraq or to tire it out.

In your name, glorious Iraqis, we tell the Tehran rulers: You have enough of catastrophes. You have enough woes which your sick minds brought to your people and to humanity. However, if you insist on trying what you have not tried before, your destiny will be worse than what you have faced in all previous battles. Calamity will overtake the oppressor, O wicked suspect. It is Almighty God who grants wisdom and power and it is on Iraq's great people that we base our confidence in splendid victory, God willing.

Brothers, people of cherished Iraq, sons of the glorious Arab nation: Since the beginning of aggression against our beloved Iraq in 1980, we have been explaining the situation and the required stands and measures on the part of our Arab brothers on the basis of pan-Arab principles, common Arab destiny, and joint Arab security. We have also been explaining the situation

to the entire world within the framework of the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement, as well as within the international framework in general in accordance with the heavenly laws, international law, and the principles governing relations among countries. Iraq has abided by all laws and commitments. It has abided by the UN Security Council's resolutions and by the resolutions and calls of both the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement.

Nevertheless, the Tehran regime insisted on war and aggression and on ignoring the UN Security Council resolutions and the resolutions and calls of the Islamic world and the Nonaligned Movement. More than 4 years and several months have passed and Iraq, praise be to God, is able to fight the wicked. It has proven this through words and deeds. It proved that through its steadfastness, it is capable of unique achievement and advancement. There is no longer any danger threatening Iraq. The deterioration of conditions in Iran and the Tehran rulers' failure in their adventure against Iraq have become clear to the entire world. A dark future awaits Iran if its rulers insist on continuing the war. However, we believe that it is time for the Arab countries, first, and the international community with all its frameworks and gatherings, second, to confront the Iranian regime with a new technique after the previous techniques have failed to dissuade it from its injustice and both aggressive and expansionist inclinations.

All the Arabs are today required to speak their words more frankly and strongly than before in denouncing the Iranian aggression and in condemning and encircling the evil being exported by the Tehran rulers.

Appeasement and silence did not succeed in the past and will not succeed in the future with the Tehran rulers. This will only increase their recklessness, vanity, and illusion and will also increase the threat of war, not against Iraq, which has overcome the danger, but against the Arab nation. After crashing against Iraq's solid steadfastness and their designs against Iraq failed, the Tehran rulers began their attempts to create new methods of sabotage and harm against the entire Arab nation. A responsible pan-Arab concept and a far-sighted political stand are urgently needed more than ever before. We must make our calculations within a futurist pan-Arab framework and avoid trivial and short-term calculations in confronting the dangers that threaten the Arab nation and homeland.

On the international level, we find that a serious stand is urgently needed toward this renegade regime — a stand that is in harmony with international law and comprehensive international interest in establishing security and stability in this sensitive part of the world. Some countries tried numerous methods in dealing with this deviant regime under several pretexts. This regime was tested over several years. What was the result? The result was that the Iranian regime has continued with its aggressive policies, exporting anarchy and sabotage, and its obstinacy and intransigence. Out of our sense of international responsibility, we believe that the time has come for these countries to revise their stands on this regime, adhere to the morality of international relations, act in harmony with international law and the need to safeguard security and stability, and to deal with the Tehran regime in a manner that puts an end to its deviant policies and its constant attempts to spread harm and sabotage in the region and the world.

Brothers, on this occasion we must extend greetings to those valiant Iraqis who were forced by the circumstances of the battles to be captured, having lost their arms and exhausted their ammunition. I greet them while they suffer from the evil and rancor of the Tehran rulers, who flouted divine values and earthly rules in dealing with them. The Tehran rulers, who are saturated with illusion and rancor, thought that capturing Iraqis would enable them to influence them and use them for their evil objectives. However, those men, who fought the enemy when they had their rifles, did not give in to this enemy after they lost their rifles. They did not give in to the enemy's terrorism and its methods of deception and torture. This intensified the Iranian enemy's rancor and torture against them. On several occasions this enemy fired at them and killed a number of them in a dastardly and vile manner to which not even the most despicable evildoer in the human history resorted.

The Tehran rulers' crimes against the POW's confirm two basic facts:

First, the Iraqi men who were captured, through steadfastness and patriotism, angered those rulers who are full of rancor and evil and visibly and tangibly emphasized to the Tehran rulers the impossibility of achieving their covetous ambitions and evil illusions in Iraq.

Second, the Tehran rulers have violated all divine legislations and human rules in dealing with prisoners. The murder of Iraqi POW's shocked the human conscience. The speech of the International Committee of the Red Cross before the permanent representatives in Geneva, which was directed at 83 countries that signed the Geneva conventions on POW's, was a true expression of the ugliness of this crime and the Tehran rulers, who betrayed the teachings of Islam and violated earthly rules and human legislations.

We urge the international community to adopt immediate and decisive measures to guarantee the treatment of POW's in accordance with the Geneva conventions and international laws. We strongly say that we cannot possibly allow our sons to be continuously treated in this barbaric manner. If the Tehran rulers insist on their criminal methods and if the concerned international organizations, particularly the United Nations which we asked to meet its responsibility, do not adopt the necessary measures to protect the POW's, Iraq will resort to the measures it deems fit to punish the criminals who are persisting with their crimes and to put an end to these heinous crimes against human beings, mankind, and the heavenly laws. Nobody should think that these measures include treating the Iranians in kind, because we will not relinquish the values and principles in which we believe and which we inherited from our grandfathers and our nation's history.

O glorious Iraqis, O valiant sons of the Armed Forces, O brave fighters: I greet you everywhere in your positions while guarding the mountain, plain, marsh, and river, while warding the filth of the greedy enemies off the soil of your dear homeland, and while protecting it from the criminal Iranian aggression that

is aimed against your freedom, values, principles, and all the gains you achieved through your work, efforts, and faithfulness. You revolted and were at the head of your people, who rose up when they discovered that the treacherous Iranian enemy is harboring evil for them and wants to occupy their lands, dominate their destiny, and impose its unjust will on their homeland.

You enjoyed the good opinion of your people and were a source of pride for all the sons of your Arab nation. You wrenched the admiration of the world by your heroic deeds and glorious actions.

The victory whose banner you carried in all the heroic battles against your unjust enemy will continue to be a source of power for your homeland, a source of pride for your sons, and a beacon for the generations that will remember with pride your honorable stands.

If you daily tell your sons, wives, and people stories of heroism and sacrifice that make one proud and determined, how can the vile losers return to their kinfolk except with defeatism and humiliation? For this is the outcome of their aggression, ambition, and ignorance. And this is the fruit of your courage and heroic steadfastness.

As for you, righteous martyrs, be delighted and in good spirits because the land you watered with your blood will live in honor and power. It will be protected by an impregnable wall of men who learned from you how principles are protected and how the fortification is safeguarded.

The banner of victory which you held up in the arenas of the battles of honor, dignity, and defense of our creed will continue to wave high. The signs of the splendid and decisive victory you began are emerging over your cherished Iraq while it is celebrating the day of its victorious Army.

You are with us, O righteous, in our feasts, happy occasions, and hearts. Your love is filling our houses, farms, and the playgrounds of our children. You are the source of pride for women, men, mothers, fathers, brothers, and sons. You are a beacon for the coming generations. You were and will continue to be more generous than us all for what you have offered for the homeland and principles.

The Iraqis will not forget your large sacrifices which entered history from the widest doors and pleased your great grandfathers. A greeting to your chaste souls; let them be blessed in heaven.

O glorious Iraqis, O brave sons of the Armed Forces: You have fought patiently and sacrificed. You have filled Iraq's land with courage, offers, and hope. The victory you have so far achieved is an outstanding fact admitted by enemies and strangers before friends and relatives. As for your enemy, its defeat before you has become a tangible and cogent fact that cannot be denied even by the enemy itself. By God, you deserve this glory. You also deserve everything that is good and honorable. May God bless and preserve you. May God protect your victory. Let us move toward further victory, progress, and might. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Commanders Praise Readiness of Armed Forces

Cables Sent to Saddam

JN061039 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA) — The Iraqi military commanders have asserted that their forces will destroy any future Iranian aggression with their sophisticated weapons and their faith in the cause of defending Iraq.

In congratulatory cables sent today to President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, on the occasion of the Iraqi Army's 64th anniversary, the commanders affirmed that their forces will guarantee an end to the Iranian rulers' expansionist plans.

Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, Armed Forces deputy commander in chief and defense minister, stressed that the Iraqi forces are now standing on solid ground to mercilessly crush any fresh Iranian aggression foever.

Addressing President Saddam Husayn, Khayrallah said: If freedom is valuable, your men are up to the price, regardless of the sacrifices.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, commander in chief of the Popular Army, stressed that the fighters of this Army are now more able and better prepared than ever before to carry out any combat mission against the Iranians. Ramadan said that the Popular Army fighters will fight with the Armed Forces until the Iranian rulers stop their aggression.

The chief of staff explained that the recent epics indicate the beginning of the Iranian regime's collapse in all military, political, and economic fields. He noted that the Iranians are no longer able to continue their aggressions against Iraq nor carry out their expansionist intentions in the Arab Gulf region. He said that 1984 witnessed only two battles, which led to heavy losses on the Iranian side.

The Air Force commander affirmed that the Iraqi pilots will continue to attack Iranian installations and selected targets. He pledged that the Iraqi pilots will protect Iraq's skies and territory against any Iranian aggression.

Commanders Note Battle Readiness

JN061504 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1244 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA) — A number of Iraqi Army commanders have asserted that any Iranian offensive against Iraq will result in a fiasco and total military defeat for Iran. In press statements on the 64th anniversary of the Iraqi Army, the commanders noted that Iraqi forces stand in readiness to confront and defeat any new Iranian offensive against Iraqi territory.

The Iraqi Army chief of staff said that Iraq's military plans are based on the theory of continuous war. Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Jawwad Dhunnun added that these plans require continuous backing for the Armed Forces in terms of armament and morale. He said experience has taught the Iraqi command how to discover

missing links in all fields and how to solve problems of armaments, military operations, and mobilization.

The commander of the Air Force and air defense forces said that the coming days will witness decisive developments on the battlefield. He said: We will surprise the Iranian regime's forces with new methods and advanced modern weapons which, in conjuction with our Armed Forces units, will destroy the Iranian war machine, the main supply lines, and all means of prolonging the Iranian aggression. He said the Iraqi Air Force has begun using new methods commensurate with the new weapons and the tasks to be carried out, especially in carrying out the blockade on Khark Island and other Iranian ports.

The commander of the Naval Force and coastal defense forces reminded ships to heed the warning not to approach Khark or other Iranian ports, noting that some ships appear as if they do not hear our warning. When they come, they face the Iraqis, who burn them in the suicide zone. He described shipowners who send their ships to Khark and other Iranian ports as reckless adventurers whose main aim is to realize material gains.

The field artillery commander said that the Iraqi Army possesses new weapons of outstanding capability to support fighting units and destroy an enemy position or target. He added that Iraq has begun training technical cadres to use advanced computerized weapons and equipment in order to employ them against Iranian positions and concentrations as best we can. He said combat experience has increased the Iraqi Army's skill in using artillery and in mobilization, planning, and combat development.

Army's Resources Now 'Bigger'

JN050728 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0622 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA) — The Iraqi Army's chief of staff has stated that the Iraqi forces possess the best that the current military technology in the world can provide. In a statement to *AL-JUMHURIYAH* published today, Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Jawwad Dhunnun said that the Iraqi Army's current resources are now bigger than they were at the beginning of the war 4 years ago, adding that this makes the Iraqi forces capable of inflicting the gravest losses on the Iranian aggressors, whether on the international border or deep inside Iranian territory.

Reportage on Combat Operations in Gulf War

Planes Hit Maysan Sector

JN041717 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,701 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Whenever the Iranian rulers persist in their follies and their rejection of peace calls, they find a great people and a strong Army that are able to repulse their aggression and protect the country's land and sovereignty. The following is a roundup of operations for yesterday evening and today.

1. With daring and successful attacks, our valiant hawks continued to deal the enemy devastating blows and to tear up the defeated Khomeyniite remnants and destroy their materiel and hardware in the Maysan sector today. They carried out 131 combat missions and returned safely and successfully with their aircraft, praise be to God.

2. The brave helicopter heroes carried out a bold air raid against an enemy boat in the Maysan sector and managed to destroy the boat and kill three of its occupants. They also destroyed one medium machine gun before they returned safely with their helicopters under God's protection.

3. Our forward units delivered concentrated blows to several enemy positions, troops, and equipment in the Maysan sector, killing six, wounding others, and destroying a number of positions. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses in a state of confusion.

4. According to a fixed plan, several formations of our forward units in the operational sector east of Basra delivered effective artillery blows to selected enemy targets, inflicting large losses in personnel and equipment.

5. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed in the northern sector of the operational theater.

6. This afternoon, the vicious enemy shelled a civilian area in Basra with heavy artillery, killing one woman.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 January 1985

Air Force Continues 'Blows'

JN051750 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,702 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the eve of its anniversary celebrations, our valiant Army stands as loftily as a towering mountain under the banner of Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, its teacher and leader. Our valiant Army is waging the war determined to score a final victory, with God's help and the determination of its valiant men, after forcing the rancorous Khomeyniite clique, the enemy of mankind and life, to swallow bitter defeats while it continues to defend the honor, sovereignty, and dignity of this beloved homeland and the achievements of the 17-30 July revolution. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. To confirm our air supremacy on the entire battlefield, the valiant hawks of the air continued their intensive and destructive blows against enemy troop concentrations opposite our forces' positions in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting the heaviest losses in life and equipment on the enemy. Columns of smoke were seen spiraling from the hit targets. Our valiant hawks carried out 51 combat missions before returning safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

2. One of our forward units pounded several enemy positions and troop concentrations in the central sector with all types of weapons, killing two and wounding others. In another of the same sector, one of our patrols, while carrying out its duties in the no-man's-land, captured military hardware and materiel the enemy had left behind in previous battles.

3. One of our forward formations shelled enemy positions, troops, and enemy engineering activities in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting losses in life and equipment on the enemy, and destroying two weapon emplacements, one enemy observation post, and two infantry positions, whose occupants were killed. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

4. A group of our valiant fighters fired on enemy positions opposite their positions in the Maysan sector, destroying one enemy machine gun position and one enemy observation post, whose occupants were also killed.

5. Three enemy troops were killed, seven others were wounded, and one excavator was destroyed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

6. The criminal enemy shelled the Basra suburbs.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 January 1985

Maysan Sector Raided

JN061724 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,703 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While celebrating the anniversary of its establishment, our people's Armed Forces pledge to Almighty God, to their great leader Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn, who laid down the firm foundation of their ideology, who is the builder of their resources, the inspirer of their men, and the man who drew up for them the paths of permanent triumph, and to their people from whom they recruit brave, sincere men that it will remain a revolutionary vanguard, armed with faith in God, with pan-Arab ideology, and with all the means of defending Arabism and Arab causes, history, and culture. They pledge to preserve the soil of the Iraqi homeland and the Iraqi people's achievements.

Our Armed Forces' persevering struggle against the Khomeynite wind that carries the spirit of barbarism and which is poisoned with historical spite and evil designs will continue and expand. With God's help, our Armed Forces will remain true to the souls of our pure martyrs and will inflict on the remnants of enemy forces one defeat after another and teach them bitter lessons until the enemy heeds the calls for truth and peace and humbly respects Iraqi sovereignty, security, and methods of life.

The following is a summary of operations for last night and today.

1. Our daring Air Force planes continued to deal destructive blows to the remnants of the defeated enemy forces, their positions, equipment, and supplies in the Maysan sector all day today. Our pilots carried out 92 combat missions and returned with their planes safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

2. Several formations from our forward units pounded a number of enemy positions, equipment, and vehicles east of Basra with heavy artillery, inflicting losses in men, equipment, and supplies. Our units destroyed three big trucks and two infantry positions, killed two enemy soldiers, and created fires in other positions.

3. One of our forward units pounded enemy positions, observation posts, and troop movements in the central sector, inflicting grave damage and destroying two observation posts and one hardware stockpiles.

4. Escaping from the tyranny of the Iranian ruling clique, new groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

5. At various times today, the criminal enemy shelled a number of civilian areas near Basra with heavy artillery, damaging some civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 January 1985

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN071340 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In view of the Iranian regime's insistence on prolonging the war and on utilizing Iran's oil resources to commit aggression against our people instead of utilizing them in dealing with Iran's problems, and out of our desire to safeguard our national and pan-Arab interests and to confirm Iraq's ability and absolute superiority over the regime of arrogant charlatans, the brave sky hawks dealt one of their successful blows to a large maritime target near Khark Island at 1320 [1020 GMT] today, hitting it accurately and effectively before returning safely to base under God's protection.

The brave sky hawks, who began the new year with this accomplishment, will continue to impose a siege on Khark Island and the other Iranian ports until the Iranian regime agrees to the peace calls and until the time Iraq can exercise its right to navigation in international waters. We did them no wrong, but they were used to doing wrong to themselves. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 January 1985

Husni Mubarak, Delegation Arrive in Aqaba 5 Jan

JN051113 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Aqaba — Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Aqaba at noon today on a fraternal visit to Jordan. His Majesty King Husayn received the Egyptian president at Aqaba Airport.

He was also received by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; General Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and senior civilian and military officials in Aqaba.

President Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation which comprises Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, head of the president's office for political affairs; Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz; and General Department for Information Chief Dr Mamduh al-Baltaji.

Departs After 4-Hour Visit

JN051633 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Aqaba — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak left Aqaba today following a 4-hour fraternal working visit to Jordan. This visit is within the framework of coordination and consultation between the two fraternal countries.

During this visit, His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak held a closed meeting that was followed by an expanded meeting attended by members of the Jordanian and Egyptian sides. This meeting was interrupted by a working luncheon.

The two great Arab leaders reviewed the current Arab situation in light of developments in the Arab and international arenas and the progress of joint cooperation between the two countries.

His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak stressed their concern about continuing consultation and coordination between both countries' leaderships in order to serve the joint interests of the two fraternal peoples and to achieve the Arab nation's national and pan-Arab interests.

President Husni Mubarak was received and seen off at Aqaba Airport by His Majesty King Husayn; Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jrodanian Armed Forces; and senior civil and military officials in the city of Aqaba.

President Mubarak was accompanied by a delegation composed of Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, head of the president's office for political affairs and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz; and Chief of the General Department for Information Dr Mamduh al-Baltaji.

Further on Visit by Italian Foreign Minister

Received by King Husayn

JN041643 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received Giulio Andreotti, Italian foreign minister and chairman of the EEC's current session, his wife, and the delegation accompanying him in Al-Nadwah Palace today. His majesty welcomed the guest and said that he highly values Andreotti's visit to Jordan, a visit that stresses the Italian Government's eagerness to continue consultations and exchange viewpoints between the two friendly countries on issues of mutual and EEC concern, the foremost of which is the Middle East cause.

The guest minister conveyed to his majesty Italian President Sandro Pertini's greetings and wishes for continued progress and stability under his majesty's leadership, stressing that the selection of Jordan to be the first country he will visit following the transfer of the chairmanship of the current EEC session was prompted by the Italian Government's appreciation for the central role Jordan is playing under King Husayn to serve the cause of the region and to seek a just peace that all patries are seeking and the European countries are concerned about achieving.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the court minister; Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Tahir al-Masri, the minister of foreign affairs; the ambassador to Italy; and their wives. It was attended on the Italian side by the members of Andreotti's delegation and the ambassador in Amman and their wives. After a luncheon at their majesties' table, His Majesty King Husayn met with Andreotti in his office for some time.

Following his arrival in Amman this afternoon, the Italian foreign minister made a statement. He said that within the European group his country is showing deep interest in the Middle East cause. He said his visit to Jordan is aimed at discussing the latest developments in the region. He also explained that the Venice declaration issued by the European group is still valid for finding a solution to the Middle East cause. He also denied the existence of any new Italian initiative regarding the region's crisis. Andreotti arrived in Amman today for an official 2-day visit to Jordan.

Received by Al-Masri

JN041833 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and his delegation this evening. Al-Masri briefed the guest minister on the latest developments in the Palestine question and stressed that an international peace conference is the only way to bring about peace in the region. Al-Masri also explained the need for the European group to participate in efforts to overcome any obstacles that may prevent the convening of the conference.

Praises Husayn's Leadership

JN050921 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 5 Jan 85 p 24

[Text] Amman — Petra — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that achieving a comprehensive and permanent peace in the region has become a pressing need that must be realized as soon as possible. At a banquet he gave in honor of Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and his wife yesterday evening, Al-Masri added that the peace process can only be accomplished through international principles; namely, the inadmissibility of acquiring land by force, guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian people and the right of all countries in the region to live peacefully, and land in exchange for peace. He asserted that Jordan's stand stems from our acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, from our adherence to the Fes summit plan, and from our response to the Venice Declaration issued in 1980.

Al-Masri pointed out that Jordan believes that in order to achieve these principles, an international conference for peace in the region under UN supervision must be held — a conference that will be attended by the permanent Security Council members and the PLO.

Al-Masri said that Jordan has accepted all peace initiatives, but Israel continues building settlements in the occupied Arab territories. He said that this is an aggressive trend and an illegal act aimed at changing the demographic nature of the occupied Arab territories, because establishing these settlements constitutes a practical embodiment of occupation.

The foreign minister asserted Jordan's persistent efforts in the service of peace in order to save the kinfolk and the land from the yoke of the Israeli occupation and to achieve peace for all. This stand is at the top of Jordan's priorities. From this principle, cooperation between the Jordanian Government and the PLO is inevitable in reaching a joint view to achieve peace in the Middle East. We hope that this cooperation will produce positive results.

Tahir al-Masri asserted Jordan's interest in the European role in the peace process. This role will have positive effects in the region, in Europe, and in the entire world.

Al-Masri touched on the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and its threat to international peace. He called on the international community to assume its responsibility completely in order to end this destructive war. Iraq accepted all the initiatives and international resolutions to end the war, but Iran rejected all of them. He added that the arms which Iran buys from the black market and which pass through Europe are one of the main factors prolonging this war. Al-Masri called on the Italian minister and Western countries to exert persistent efforts to achieve peace in this region.

Al-Masri talked about the situation in Lebanon and asserted that Jordan supports Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory. He called for the complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti delivered a speech in which he praised Jordan's political farsightedness, wisdom, and realistic views under His Majesty King Husayn's leadership. He said that Amman holds a prominent position in the dialogue between Europe and the Middle East. He said this dialogue is vital to the balance of power in the Mediterranean and the world.

Andreotti noted the importance of the dialogue between King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, as well as the meetings which took place between King Husayn and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the restoration of Jordan's diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Andreotti said: With great interest we recorded the important suggestion presented by King Husayn at the opening of the PNC session on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian initiative aimed at regaining Arab sovereignty over the Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Andreotti added that the stand of Italy and the EEC, which will be chaired by Italy as of the beginning of January, is linked to the basic principles of the Venice Declaration and to the stands of the 10 countries. Recently, we called for Palestinian self-determination and for the participation of all parties in a negotiation process that would lead to recognizing the right of all states and peoples in the region to justice, peace, and security.

Andreotti added: The situation in Lebanon arouses great concern and the Iraqi-Iranian conflict continues to disturb the Gulf. Regrettably, we see a bloody conflict between two big states which are important to the balance of power in the region. What is more painful than the political balance and the economic interests which are strongly harmed by the conflict, is the fate of the people who are sacrificing their blood in this tragedy whose end is nowhere in sight. He added: Despite the efforts of many countries and important international organizations that could not open the horizons for political communication, we will continue to believe that the efforts of the international community, particularly the efforts of the United Nations, must continue and be increased.

The evening banquet was attended by Industry and Trade Minister Dr Jawad al-'Anani, Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the delegation accompanying the Italian minister, the Italian ambassador in Amman, the appointed Jordanian ambassador to Italy, the French, British, and Tunisian ambassadors, the EEC envoy in Amman, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Reviews Talks With Husayn

AU051500 Rome ANSA in English 0800 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] (ANSA) Amman, January 5 — Visiting Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti will look into the prospects of boosting economic cooperation with Jordan today after spending his first day in the Jordanian capital Friday discussing Middle East peace efforts with King Husayn.

Andreotti is scheduled to meet with the King's brother, Crown Prince Hasan, before boarding his return flight to Rome. The Italian minister, who is visiting the Jordanian capital in his capacity as Rome government spokesman as well as duty

chairman of the European Community's Council, reported last night that King Husayn "is not pessimistic" about the chances of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

After three hours of talks with the Jordanian monarch, Andreotti got the impression that Husayn is intent on following a path leading to negotiations with Israel. He is also optimistic. Andreotti reported, that a "joint platform between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization is well on its way, and may be ready in the near future."

Andreotti got right down to talks with Husayn upon his arrival Friday. The two men conferred over a work luncheon for one hour and then had two hours of formal political talks.

Andreotti arrived just as PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat was leaving the Jordanian capital after three rounds of talks with King Husayn. Their lengthy meetings were devoted to a search for agreement on a joint peace move.

Husayn, who launched the proposal of drafting a joint Jordanian-Palestinian strategy for getting Israeli-occupied Arab lands back from Israel in exchange for peace at the Palestinian National Council meeting in Amman last November, briefed Andreotti on his most recent meetings with 'Arafat.

The Italian minister was very reserved in his account to reporters, saying only that Husayn and 'Arafat agreed on the notion of creating a Palestinian state which would be "federated" with Jordan. He gave no details, however.

On behalf of the European "ten," Andreotti encouraged Husayn to continue his efforts. (The EC welcomed the moderate stance that emerged from the recent PLO National Council and has called, on several occasions, for peace negotiations with the PLO taking part).

Speaking as "an outside observer who looks to these troubled lands as a friend," Andreotti urged Arab nations to settle their differences.

According to the Italian diplomatic chief, divisions inside the Arab world are most harmful. "If there are differences," he advised, "they should never reach the point of breaking down communications or of isolating one or another Arab state from the region."

Praising what he called Husayn's "political vision, wisdom and realism," Andreotti cited Jordan's move to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt as step in the direction of Arab unity.

In a toast delivered at an official dinner given in his honor by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Andreotti urged the PLO to take "further indispensible steps" that will make "concrete and workable results possible."

Andreotti's trip to Jordan is part of an Italian diplomatic effort to meet with all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. He and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi traveled recently to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Tunisia, where they met with 'Arafat.

During their meetings Friday, Husayn voiced sharp concern for two local Middle East crises, the Lebanese problem and the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Discusses Economic Cooperation

JN051253 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Amman — The Jordanian side led by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and the Italian side led by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti held an expanded meeting at the Foreign Ministry today. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in various fields, especially in the economic field. They also reviewed the extent of cooperation between Jordan and Italy in light of the agreements that the two sides had concluded in the economic, cultural, and technical spheres.

The two sides agreed to form a joint committee that will hold alternate meetings in the two countries' capitals in order to increase cooperation and to follow up the existing economic programs. Moreover, a special Italian delegation will visit Amman in early February.

Received by Prince Hasan

JN051634 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Amman — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti at his office this afternoon. Attending the meeting were Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the delegation accompanying the Italian foreign minister, and the Italian ambassador in Amman.

Makes Departure Statement

JN051921 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] In a statement before leaving Amman this evening, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti said that his talks with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and senior Jordanian officials dealt with political issues and Italy's contribution to supporting Jordanian development plans. He added: His Majesty King Husayn has informed me of the steps the joint Palestinian-Jordanian action has achieved to promote peace efforts in the region. Andreotti added that Italy believes that a just and comprehensive peace in the region necessitates Israel withdrawing from all the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, as well as the rights of all the region's states to live in peace within secured and recognized borders, be recognized.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said that the talks His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials held with Andreotti dealt with several issues related to promoting bilateral relations. He said that the two sides reviewed recent developments in the Middle East, ways to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and Europe's role in this regard.

Al-Masri added that Andreotti did not present a new European initiative, but some ideas on a more effective European role were presented. He said that Jordan believes that the best framework for settling the Middle East crisis is the convocation of an international conference for peace to be attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO and the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Al-Masri pointed out that the Europeans accept the concept of an international conference for peace. He said they believe that convening such a conference needs guarantees for its success, such as all the parties to the conflict, including the U.S., agreeing to convene this conference.

Andreotti was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the Italian ambassador in Amman.

Returns to Rome

AU051935 Rome ANSA in English 1900 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] (ANSA) Amman, January 5 — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti returned to Rome this afternoon after receiving confirmation in two days of talks with Jordanian authorities of the Palestine Liberation Organization's pro-negotiations policy "shift."

Andreotti and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi were among the first to be personally informed of the shift, which became official last november at a PLO national council session in Amman, when they met PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis at the beginning of December.

King Husayn assured Andreotti during talks in the Jordanian capital Friday that he will do everything in his power not to miss the opportunity provided by the PLO's latest "indications of willingness" to take part in a joint peace move with Jordan.

"We must take advantage of the possibilities coming to fore at this time," the Jordanian monarch was quoted as saying, "otherwise, the situation may precipitate."

The two major political accomplishments of Andreotti's two-day visit to Amman were confirmation of the PLO's policy shift and assurances from King Husayn that he will pursue efforts to achieve a hook-up between Jordan and the PLO, an event which the monarch believes may come about in the "not-too-distant future."

In his capacity as duty chairman of the European Community's Foreign Ministers' Council, Andreotti is following indications that emerged from the EC's summit talks in Dublin calling for continued contacts with all parties involved in the Middle East conflict. The aim of the meetings is to contribute to the creation of the right conditions for a resumption of negotiations.

An agreement between Husayn and 'Arafat would represent a major factor contributing to the drafting of a joint negotiations platform, which Jordan would like to see based on the United Nation's Security Council Resolution 242. The Palestinians have announced that they may be ready with an answer to Husayn's proposals as early as next week. Husayn, however, indicated that there would be no cause for alarm if the response took more time in coming.

Once a relationship is established between Jordan and the PLO, Amman authorities said they hoped that international opinion would pressure Israel into accepting negotiations.

Most observers agreed that an "institutional link" between Jordan and the PLO would represent an important "new factor" in the realm of the Arab-Israeli crisis. (At present, Jordan would like to see the hook-up take the form of a "union" while the PLO refers to the prospective development in terms of a "confederation").

The development may create new negotiations prospects, and Europe, observers said today, may find room for a peace move.

The European Community's accredited ambassadors in Amman, in fact, were on hand at the airport for Andreotti's departure this afternoon, listening attentively to his account of the meetings he had here with Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan and Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Andreotti reported that Husayn did not think the Soviet Union would be crucial to the success of an international peace conference. But, he pointed out, Moscow surely has the power to sabotage a peace move from which it is left out, and that is why arrangements for a conference should include the Soviet Union.

The Jordanians, the Italian diplomat reported, have no preconceived notion about how the conference should be organized. They only want to make sure that there is enough agreement in principle to ensure its success.

The atmosphere of Andreotti's talks Friday and Saturday in Amman was described as "very friendly." Jordan publicly praised Italy's role in the European Community in promoting the Ten's Middle East policy stance, particularly the so-called "Venice Declaration" of 1980. The Jordanians also praised Italy's role in the multinational peace-keeping force in Beirut and voiced "notable" concern over the Lebanese situation.

Prince Hasan said he was "very worried" about the developments of the Iran-Iraq war and Al-Masri, in a meeting with Andreotti, aired suspicions that a European "black market" was supplying Iran with arms. Andreotti denied (that Italy) was one of Iran's suppliers.

This morning, before resuming talks with Jordanian authorities, Andreotti paid a visit to the archaeological center of Petra.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on Italy's Role in Middle East

JN051035 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jan 85 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Italy and the European Role"]

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti's visit to Jordan opens the door again for talks on Europe's past role and the role that Europe must now play in solving the region's crisis, and, in

particular, the role that Italy should play. The Italian foreign minister is the present chairman of the EEC and it was in Italy that the European countries adopted the Venice Declaration which Jordan described then as having positive points but needing some annexes.

Because UN Resolution 242, which is considered a basis for the international resolutions and initiatives to solve the region's crisis, is basically a European suggestion that Britain presented to the Security Council, and because the Arabs positively responded to the resolution and also to Jordan's approach to the resolution, represented by its formula of land in exchange for peace, the way will be paved for the European Community, which past experience has proven has a real interest in establishing a just peace in the region and in avoiding the conflagrations which created crises in Europe more than in any other area.

The European responsibility is not the only window through which Italy looks at the region, because Italy's relations with the Arabs have been clear since the Second World War.

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi's statements after his visit to Tunis — statements in which the Italian leader acknowledged the PLO's trend toward peace — and his meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat give the impression of an effort which may be fruitful in achieving peace if this effort depends on the Arabs' desire for peace, on their concern for justice, and on the possibility of continuing any peace plan.

On many occasions, Europe proved that it could adopt the decision it wanted, although the decision may not have satisfied its big partner on the other side of the Atlantic.

If we take into consideration Europe's historic, economic, and cultural relations with the region, Europe's responsibility for playing a real role in maintaining peace, the fact that Europe is a partner with the Arabs in the Mediterranean, and that if unrest prevails on the eastern coast the other coasts will not remain calm, then we can expect effective European and Italian initiatives to solve the region's crisis.

Army Commander on Air Defense Deal With USSR

JN060925 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jan 85 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] Amman — Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, comamnder in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, yesterday morning patronized the opening of the 26th command and staff course.

The commander in chief delivered a speech in which he welcomed the officers attending the course, including officers from fraternal and friendly states. He pointed out the course's great importance to our Armed Forces, saying it is considered an essential training phase in the officer's military life that trains him to perform his various duties with confidence, knowledge, and certainty. The following is the text of the speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother officers: I am pleased as I open this new course in the Royal Command and Staff College today to meet with officers of our Armed Forces, as well as with our guests, the Arab and Muslim officers who are attending this course. I feel satisfied that your attendance of this course today stems from a desire and ambition to attain sound levels of military training.

Brother officers: The care and interest which his majesty the supreme commander has given to his Armed Forces since assuming his consitutional powers early in his long life have had their clear effect on the present level of competence, knowledge, training, and armament they have attained. Everyone has sensed this qualitative leap in preparation and training that is represented, for instance, by the conclusion of several deals to acquire different types of sophisticated weapons from various sources and also by signing the air defense network deal with the USSR which will reach us at the beginning of this year. This is in addition to our efforts to conclude other deals with Britain and France in order to strengthen our Armed Forces by supplying them with their arms requirements despite our limited resources.

I welcome our Arab and Muslim officers and wish you all success in becoming a strong support for our Armed Forces. May God grant you success. Peace be upon you.

Military Talks With Israel Resume in Al-Naqurah

UN's Aime Arrives in Beirut

NC041605 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Assistant Deputy UN Secretary General Jean-Claude Aime arrived in Beirut from Israel for talks with Lebanese officials on the Al-Naqurah military talks between Lebanon and Israel.

Aime Confers With Al-Turk

NC051214 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Assistant Deputy UN Secretary General Jean-Claude Aime, who arrived in Beirut last night, is scheduled to meet with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami today to discuss the arrangements for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Aime met this morning with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, in the presence of Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, director of political affairs in the ministry. Aime briefed them on the atmosphere of his diplomatic tour to the capitals of the states concerned with the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Aime is scheduled to return to Israel prior to the resumption of the 12th session of the Al-Naqurah talks on Monday.

'Political Source' on Al-Jumayyil Statement

NC051628 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] An informed political source has reported that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil may deliver an important speech to the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps at 1300 tomorrow in which he will present a solution for the Al-Naqurah talks. The source said that the solution will be rational, will guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty, will be acceptable locally and internationally, and will be intended to permit the talks to continue, so that proposals that will ensure Israel's withdrawal will be finalized.

The source added that President al-Jumayyil believes that the Army's deployment up to the Al-Awwali River is inevitable and critical to liberation, especially since its deployment there has become a national and international symbol. It was added that all obstacles must be eliminated if higher national interests are to be served. The source said that the Army's role and deployment up to the Al-Awwali are significant not only politically and in terms of security, but also in the historic sense, for the Army's deployment has become a test of Lebanon's credibility, and must affect the progress of the talks and the positions that might emerge after this coming Monday.

The source said in conclusion that there is a general feeling of great optimism that the solution to be presented will be of fundamental importance and will have repercussions on all levels.

Al-Jumayyil on Al-Naqurah Talks

NC061627 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Speech delivered by President Amin al-Jumayyil at luncheon at the Presidential Palace in Beirut on 6 January in honor of members of the diplomatic corps — recorded]

[Excerpts] Your Excellencies, I thank you for the noble sentiments you have expressed both toward me personally and toward my country and its people. I also thank you for the warmth of your sincerity and your widespread faith in them.

Permit me, Your Excellencies, to express my feelings at being in the midst of this gracious family. This gathering is an expression of the international community's solidarity with a country that, despite its small size and troubles, is missed within that community, which continues to reserves its position and all of its special rights for it. This is testimony that I greatly appreciate. It also increases my confidence and faith. It is proof, among much other evidence, that Lebanon is an established and firm homeland, and not a transient experiment. The issue in Lebanon is not of choosing the system that it will employ; the issue is of regulating the relationships among Lebanon's spiritual families and deciding their equitable roles in forging our common future. I am confident that this will be achieved this year, which I expect to be a year of reconciliation and a historic settlement. I hope to give the entire world good tidings of a better future.

However, I also hope, as do all Lebanese, that Lebanon — this human example — will receive the assistance it deserves to end the burden of injustice. This injustice was thrust upon Lebanon from outside, and was not the result of its own doing. Events in Lebanon have primarily been the result of aggression against it and not of a fundamental fault within it.

Your Excellencies, I take this opportunity to appeal to all of the world's peoples for assistance for Lebanon — the country of peace and love — so that it may regain that peace. All it wants is an end to the imprisonment [ihtijaz] of its land and people, so that it may assume its role in full.

For its part, Lebanon has not been slack either in unifying the commitment of its people in rejecting the occupation or in expressing this commitment. Its rejection of the Israeli occupation has been stressed both at the negotiating table and in all other spheres. The Lebanese Government, which represents all factions, without exception, has prepared all necessary plans to ensure the rule of legal authority everywhere. It is prepared to assume all responsibilities for security and sovereignty in the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya.

I would like to pay tribute to the important role being played by the United Nations in the talks taking place to secure the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from portions of our country that are dear to us, and to express appreciation of the efforts being exerted by its representatives at these talks. Lebanon's position on the issue of the south has not changed. It remains that which has been spelled out by the government on more than one occasion, both at home and abroad, particularly from the UN rostrum. In reaffirmation of this position, we repeat that Leba-

non agrees to the need for the United Nations and its forces to play a role in accelerating the Israeli Army's withdrawal from Lebanese territory and in facilitating the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the occupied areas.

However, Lebanon does not and will not agree to use of the UN forces in separating one Lebanese area from another, or one Lebanese citizen from another. Neither will Lebanon accept Israel's view, which seeks to isolate one portion of Lebanon from the others and to use the UN forces as a cover for a continuing Israeli presence, either directly or through Israel's allies.

Israel, therefore, must present a comprehensive program for total withdrawal from all Lebanese territory and must actually begin to prepare for this withdrawal of its forces and of other forces under its control, so that the Lebanese authority, and no one else, may assume control of the occupied areas and impose the state's authority therein.

As for Lebanon's relationship with the United Nations, this is Lebanon's affair, which it will discuss with the UN authorities within the framework of special UN bodies after Israel presents its program for total withdrawal.

I appreciate the many difficulties that face us in this regard. I am also not ignoring the interlinking regional and international interests that are at play on our territory. However, our hope is based on our renewed conviction that this interplay is a sterile one, and that area and world peace is endangered by the imprisonment of Lebanon for this purpose.

We also predicate our hope on the assistance that we are receiving from fraternal Syria and our fraternal Arabs and friends. It has been proven that the sacrifice of Lebanon will resolve nothing, whereas the termination of Lebanon's imprisonment might be the beginning of many solutions.

I hope very much that all of this will bear fruit in the new year. We hope that it will be a year of good, blessings, and peace for all Lebanese, for your peoples, and for the entire world. Thank you.

'Informed Sources' on Talks

NC070610 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The UN efforts are continuing through its envoy Jean-Claude Aime, who briefed the Lebanese officials on the outcome of his talks in Israel.

Informed sources have indicated that the next round of negotiations at Al-Naqurah will dwell on the following points:

1. The deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south;
2. The role that should be carried out by the UN forces within the context of security arrangements;
3. The timetable for the Israeli forces' withdrawal; and
4. The future of the army of southern Lebanon.

Al-Naqurah Military Discussions Resume

NC070950 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Dispatch by Antoine 'Awn, NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent, from Al-Naqurah — recorded]

[Text] The morning session of the military discussions in Al-Naqurah began at 1030 in the presence of the three delegations.

The Lebanese delegation has come confidently to the discussions. It brings with it new proposals today. Staff Brigadier General Muhammad al-Hajj has affirmed that the proposals to be presented today are inspired by President Amin al-Jumayyil's speech before members of the diplomatic corps yesterday.

Al-Huss invited the reporters, particularly the Israelis, who gathered around him to refer to President al-Jumayyil's speech.

Regarding the effect of the failure so far to implement the coastal and Iqlim al-Kharrub plan on today's discussions, Al-Huss said that the plan will be implemented and that the current problems among the Lebanese will be surmounted, because the Lebanese people's faith in their just cause will remove all obstacles.

He explained that when the Israelis withdraw, there will be no obstacles obstructing the deployment of the Lebanese Army anywhere in Lebanon. He reiterated that UNIFIL deployment anywhere in the south is a Lebanese affair, which will be discussed with the United Nations.

Staff Brig Gen al-Hajj did not hide his optimism, pointing out the positive stand which the Lebanese delegation has been adopting since the first round. He said: For our part, we lay stock on the current discussions.

'Amos Gilbo'a, leader of the Israeli delegation, said that his delegation will hear the Lebanese answer to Israel's proposals during the 11th round, and that the Israeli Government will be consulted on the necessary stands vis-a-vis the Lebanese answer. Gilbo'a asked: Why has Lebanon changed its previous demands regarding the expansion of the UNIFIL's area of operation and the increase of its strength?

An informed source of the Lebanese delegation said that Lebanon will put the ball in the Israeli court today; that the continuation of the discussions or their suspension will depend on Israel's reaction to what Lebanon will propose today.

Regarding what has been reiterated about international proposals providing for the UNIFIL deployment before the Israelis withdrawal from any place, the source said this depends on the Security Council and on what Lebanon could accept in this respect.

The foreign reporters, who are many here in Al-Naqurah today, often reiterated that Lebanon is still standing firmly and that it has not been intimidated by the warning Israel addressed during the last round.

Al-Hajj Outlines Position

NC071141 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Dispatch by Antoine 'Awn, NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent from Al-Naqurah recorded]

[Text] The Lebanese delegation circulated a short while ago the speech which Staff Brigadier General Muhammad al-Hajj delivered during the morning session of the Al-Naqurah discussions today.

Brig Gen al-Hajj said: This being the first meeting to be held during 1985, I seize this opportunity to convey sincerest wishes to the United Nations and its representatives among us. In the meantime, I hope that this year will bring welfare and peace to us. After the past 2-week recess, I find it necessary to declare the following:

1. His excellency the president of the Lebanese Republic yesterday affirmed Lebanon's stance on the discussions as follows:

Lebanon only demands that an end be put to the detention of its territory and its sons so that it may perform its full role equally on the level of promoting the lot of its people and of exchanging spiritual and ideological ties and various types of humanitarian services for which it is qualified by virtue of its environment and its special human nature. [sentence as heard] On its part, Lebanon has not been remiss in unifying the will of its sons rejecting the occupation and of expressing this. In rejecting the Israeli occupation, Lebanon has gone to great lengths to demonstrate this equally on the table of negotiations or anywhere else. Lebanon's government, which represents all its factions without any exception, has prepared all the plans necessary to impose the legitimate authority everywhere. It is ready to shoulder all the responsibilities of sovereignty and security in the south, western Al-Biqa', Rashayya, and in all its territory.

Al-Hajj continued: I seize this opportunity to praise the important role which the United Nations is performing at the current discussions to remove the Israeli forces from these dear areas of my country. I also praise the efforts which the UN representatives are exerting at these discussions.

The Lebanese stand on the south will not change. It remains the same stand which the present government has expressed on more than one occasion at the international and local forums, particularly from the UN platform.

Brig Gen al-Hajj went on: In confirmation of this stand, we reiterate that Lebanon adheres to the need of giving a role to the United Nations and its forces to speed up the Israeli Army's withdrawal from the Lebanese territory and facilitate the entry of the Lebanese Army to the occupied positions and areas. Therefore, Lebanon has not accepted and will not accept that the UNIFIL forces be deployed to separate one Lebanese area or citizen from another Lebanese area or citizen. Furthermore, Lebanon cannot accept the Israeli stand which aims at isolating one Lebanese area from other areas and using the UNIFIL presence in this area as a cover for a direct international presence or through the local forces dealing with Israel. [sentence as heard]

Brig Gen al-Hajj added: Israel must therefore, submit a comprehensive and integrated timetable for the total withdrawal from all the Lebanese territory and start to actually prepare for its withdrawal, as well as that of the forces it controls, so that the Lebanese authority and no one else can take over the occupied areas and impose the state's authority.

Al-Hajj went on: As for Lebanon's relations with the United Nations, they are a Lebanese affair which Lebanon will discuss with the UN quarters within the framework of its specialized bodies after Israel submits a timetable for its complete withdrawal.

2. In light of the above, the Lebanese delegation hopes that the Israeli delegation will not drag the discussions to peripheral issues unconnected with the essence of the question of the withdrawal and its timetable. The Lebanese side also hopes that the Israeli side will come forth in the coming sessions with practical and specific proposals ensuring the realization of those objectives for the sake of which the UN secretary general has called these discussions. These aims are the discussion of the military aspects connected with the Israeli forces withdrawal from Lebanon and the necessary security arrangements.

3. The Lebanese delegation affirms that the Lebanese Government, within the concept of the principle of sovereignty, is the only one which shoulders all its responsibilities and carries out its role in realizing the security of all the citizens and opening opportunities for them to ensure the necessary social services so that they may enjoy quiet and stability.

4. The Lebanese delegation reaffirms the intention of its government to continue these discussions in a positive and realistic atmosphere. It hopes that Israel will submit a detailed timetable for its total withdrawal from the Lebanese territory.

This ends the speech delivered by Staff Brig Gen Muhammad al-Hajj. The three delegations to the negotiations recessed at 1130. They are expected to be dining now at the table of General Callaghan.

'Deadlock' Reportedly Reached

NC071352 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Dispatch by radio correspondent Antoine 'Awn from Al-Naqurah live or recorded]

[Text] It appears that the military talks in Al-Naqurah have reached a deadlock. The second session of the 12th round of negotiations ended a short while ago, and the negotiating delegations came out and each delegation briefed its newsmen. The Lebanese delegation distributed the following information:

Although the Lebanese side has accepted an expanded role for the UN force to speed up the withdrawal from all the Lebanese territory, the Israeli side disregarded the positive elements raised by the Lebanese side. The Israeli delegation refused to submit

any plan for a withdrawal from Lebanon, thus exposing the talks to suspension [as heard]. This confirms the [Israeli] intention to continue occupying parts of the Lebanese homeland. This was the outcome of today's talks, according to Lebanese information.

The Israeli spokesman distributed information to newsmen about today's meeting which said that Israeli delegation head 'Amos Gilbo'a reminded the Lebanese delegation of what Israel had requested in the 20 December meeting. Israel maintained then that deployment of UNIFIL between the Al-Awwali and Al-Zahrani lines and up to the Syrian border is a basic demand. It called on Lebanon to accept this demand at today's meeting.

The Israeli spokesman said that regrettably, the Lebanese position remained the same, and that the Lebanese side did not give a clear response. However, the Lebanese side expressed interest in continuing the talks. Gilbo'a informed the Lebanese delegation that he will convey the Lebanese ideas to his government, which will convey its response to the Lebanese side through official channels. The Israelis will contact [UNIFIL Commander] General Callaghan regarding the next round on Thursday.

Differences Over Coastal Plan Intensify

NC041404 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces and their supporters have aborted all attempts made by the patriotic group to implement the coastal plan following lengthy meetings going on since Wednesday morning until today. The patriotic group has insisted during these meetings that the plan be implemented in the form agreed upon by all the sides — who signed the plan in the presence of [Syrian Vice President] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus. The Lebanese forces began creating obstacles when they demanded a change in the fixed positions for stationing the Internal Security Forces and the inclusion of new positions. The Lebanese Forces and the Army also demanded the opening of Al-Jiyah port for smuggling in Army members fighting alongside these forces in Iqlim al-Kharrub prior to the stationing of the Army and observers in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Prior to the Liaison Committee's meeting this morning, the Lebanese Forces cut the roads by setting up blockades at the approaches to Beirut. The crossing points were reopened earlier after the relatives of kidnapped persons suspended their sit-in. The Lebanese Forces also prevented fuel trucks from entering the western part of Beirut in implementation of Jean Ghanim's threat yesterday to the relatives of the kidnapped persons.

The Liaison Committee's meeting was held today in a tense atmosphere because the Lebanese Forces did not approve the new proposals by the Internal Security Forces. Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Karim Ibrahim, commander of the force to be sent to Iqlim al-Kharrub, said at the meeting: We are not disengagement, deterrence, protection, or support forces. We seek no one's support.

He was responding to the Lebanese Forces' representative who expressed these forces' desire to be stationed alongside the security forces in 'Ayn al-Hawr and who insisted on stationing the security forces there as well as in Al-Mtullah and Al-Burjayn. These are the same conditions that the Lebanese Forces set yesterday, undermining the meetings and delaying the implementation of the security plan because they contradict the recent agreement and basic plan.

Tawfiq Barakat, the representative of the Progressive Socialist Party said: We do not want war or any fighting in Iqlim al-Kharrub. These are the instructions of our command. We want life to return to normal. We are not here to approve a new plan, but to implement a plan which has already been approved. However, Jean Ghanim, the representative of the Lebanese Forces, has insisted on rejecting the approved plan. Lt Col Ibrahim asked him: Why don't you like frankness and clarity?

Ghanim answered: As long as you insist on stationing the gendermarie in Al-Jalaylah, then I tell you as of now that I will open fire at the Internal Security Forces there.

As a result of Ghanim's stand, the atmosphere became tense. It became obvious that the Lebanese Forces do not intend to implement the security plan. In protest, Amal movement representative Ayyub Humayyid said he will not attend the coordination meetings until the stances of the Lebanese Forces become clear and until they respect their pledges and commitments.

Army representative Brigadier General Jean Nasif admitted during the meeting what the Voice of the Mountain said yesterday about the presence of an Army battalion fighting alongside the Lebanese Forces in Iqlim al-Kharrub. The Army Command tried to smuggle in this battalion by insisting on opening Al-Jiyah port before stationing observers there. Brig Gen Nasif said: There are 100 soldiers in the south and we want to transfer them to Beirut to join the 12th Brigade which will implement the plan. They are not part of the battalion in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

It has been learned that the Lebanese Forces have threatened to destroy the headquarters of the Internal Security Forces in case the security forces implement the Iqlim al-Kharrub plan. It is recalled that the headquarters of the Internal Forces is located near the Hotel Dieu Hospital in an area which the Army claims to control, whereas in fact, it is under the Lebanese Forces' control.

Liaison Committee Meeting Suspended

NC041922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The Liaison Committee for the Al-Kharrub region suspended its meetings today after failing to reach a common agreement over the role of the security forces and the points where they would be stationed in some of the region's villages, in preparation for the deployment of the Lebanese Army from Khaldah to the Al-Awwali River.

The committee met this afternoon to continue discussing the differences which precluded stationing the security forces in the Al-Kharrub region yesterday. During the meeting, the representatives of the security forces put forward deployment plans

formulated by their command with a view to the preferences of both [the Lebanese Forces and the socialist] sides and in an attempt to avoid differences over the role of the security forces and the mode of its deployment.

As is known, the Progressive Socialist Party rejects creating disengagement lines between the Al-Kharrub region and the mountain, and consequently rejects assigning fixed posts to the security forces. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces insist on establishing such fixed posts along the disengagement lines to protect the inhabitants of some villages and their freedom to move; this applies in particular between Al-Mtullah and Bsaba, Darayya and 'Ayn al-Hawr, and Barja and Al-Burjayn.

The meeting ended at 1200 without setting another date for reconvening it, pending the holding of political contacts.

Further on Kidnapping of Swiss Diplomat

Linked to Arrest of Lebanese

NC041758 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The Swiss ambassador to Lebanon, who had been called back to his country last Autumn, has returned to Beirut to check the circumstances of the kidnapping of the third secretary in the Swiss Embassy in West Beirut.

The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY today quoted informed sources as saying that the kidnapping of the Swiss diplomat is closely linked to the detention of Husayn Asas at Zurich Airport on 18 December, while he was trying to smuggle 2 kg of explosive material from Switzerland to Italy to be used in a sabotage operation. The sources pointed out that the investigations conducted in the wake of the detention of the seven Lebanese members of the terrorist network in Italy recently revealed an important aspect of the network's link to Husayn Asas, who is an active member in it. The sources said that the kidnapping of the third secretary of the Swiss Embassy in West Beirut was carried out by an armed group with a view to exerting pressure on the federal government in Switzerland to release Asas, who belongs to this group.

Al-Turk, Swiss Envoy Meet

NC051237 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk this morning met with Swiss Ambassador to Lebanon (Paul Mark Ramsier), who arrived in Beirut yesterday. The discussions centered on the fate of the Swiss Embassy's third secretary, Eric Wehrli, who was kidnapped in Beirut 3 days ago. Information was exchanged on the current investigation into the secretary's disappearance.

After the 30-minute meeting, the Swiss ambassador said: We are exerting utmost efforts to find my colleague.

The ambassador was asked if there any information on who kidnapped him? He answered: I am sorry I cannot say anything but we are searching for the kidnapper everywhere. I thank the Lebanese Government for its extreme interest and help to us in this regard.

Reportage on Eighth Ba'th Regional Congress

SANA on Congress Deliberations

JN050956 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 5 Jan (SANA) — Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and president of Syria, will open the Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress this afternoon.

The comrade secretary general will deliver an important speech dealing with various issues and matters of concern to the masses of Syria and the Arab nation.

The eighth regional congress will study the political, organizational, and economic reports presented by the Ba'th Party Central Committee. The congress will make decisions and issue recommendations that will reinforce our general political line and our country's future trends to confront and foil conspiracies against our Arab homeland. The congress will pay particular attention to achieving a strategic balance in all aspects with the Zionist enemy. The congress will also elect the leading bodies according to the Party's bylaws.

It has been learned that the congress has invited representatives from progressive parties and forces and the Palestinian revolution groups to attend the congress's opening session.

It is worth noting that the Seventh Ba'th Party Regional Congress was held from 22 December 1979 to 6 January 1980. It was attended by 518 full members and 256 observers.

The Seventh Ba'th Party Regional Congress was held at a time when conspiracy was affecting Syria in particular and the Arab homeland in general.

Al-Asad Addresses Party Congress

JN051615 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1424 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad at the opening session of the Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress in Damascus — live]

[Text] O comrades, O brothers: Our eighth regional congress, which we open today, constitutes an important station in the history of our party and the march of our people, especially since it comes following a time full of major events on the level of both the homeland and the nation. [sentence as heard] It is perhaps being held at the threshold of a future era also full of events and developments.

A comprehensive, scientific review of what has been accomplished and dealt with since the seventh regional congress; an accurate assessment of it, whether in the form of correcting it or in the form of appraising it, both in light of our decisions and practices and in light of the regional and international circumstances which existed or emerged; and arriving through all of this at conclusions which form important landmarks in our future programs and methods of action, so that these programs and methods attain more liveliness, effectiveness, and soundness — such a review will give us an extremely important militant momentum, deepen the ambitions of our principled national and pan-Arab decisions, render our steps more firmly established, and make our people more capable of repulsing the haughty waves of imperialist winds, which are endeavoring to uproot the popular aspirations we hold in the depths of our hearts, and of discarding them in the laps of colonialism.

Imperialism is attempting to make its agents carry as much as they can and as much as it can make them carry, to such an extent that these days it is trying — as we can see — to grow claws even on those people who have become senile without having claws. It is trying this even though the laws of nature say that the one who is born a mouse can only be a mouse, no matter how long he lives or how much he screams. [applause]

O comrades: Many large tasks are awaiting us. These tasks require big intentions and great efforts. We are facing ever increasing difficulties that require increasing efforts. What people need most when they are exposed to danger, particularly when the danger is a fateful one, is to enhance their belief in themselves and their causes, to be most determined, and to translate this into tangible facts that leave no room for weakness or hesitation.

Every people who believed in their cause and were determined to make it triumph were victorious. No challenge, no matter how unruly and tyrannical it was, managed to hold out in the face of a people who decided to regain their rights and to sacrifice, and who actually sacrificed for the sake of these rights, particularly those sacrifices along the road of growing and continuous martyrdom. Life has given no example to indicate that defeat was the lot of people who struggled for their rights and were determined to achieve victory in the struggle for these rights. [applause] Life is only a continuous struggle for the sake of the causes of human life, and the causes of human life are only the causes of peoples, causes of the human masses. Once struggle stops, life comes to a halt and death prevails. Since the process of struggle is in the nature of life, it becomes more manifest and more urgent when peoples are exposed to danger. This is the stage we are passing through as a people and as a nation. Therefore, a challenge must rise in the face of another challenge. A hurricane must rise in the face of another hurricane. What a large difference there is between the hurricane of rights and peoples and that of falsehood and gangs!

We in this country — in this party, people, and nation — must entrench the ethical axiom that a people and a right mean victory. [applause] From this premise, we do not care for the manifestations of deterioration which emerged and are emerging in some parts of the Arab arena, because they are not the result of the masses' struggle and the interaction of their aspirations. They are peripheral in the major struggle between the Arab nation and its enemies. This deterioration appears largely due to the existing broad contradiction between the rulers' aspirations and the peoples' aspirations, where the area of selfishness and opportunism among the leaders expands at the expense of the masses' principles and substantial interests. [applause]

In the buffoonery being practiced by some these days, this opportunism emerges clear and radiant like the sun. However, it should be noted that although buffoonery has reached its climax

these days, it has always existed in the past. The false pretense of care for the Palestine question continued. The false talk about the need to prepare and be ready to confront the ambitious enemy also continued. However, no action was taken at any time to confirm the seriousness of this talk. No action has ever been taken to materialize the meaning of these words. On the contrary, they have always curbed the masses' struggle, particularly against the enemy. They have always tried to absorb the masses' wrath against the enemy and to turn the masses' desires to struggle against the enemy into alternate channels and positions other than the position where Israel is stationed.

Whenever we tried to bring them to the positions of real struggle with the enemy — and we made many attempts in this regard — they presented us and many of our Arab brothers with boundless pretexts and justifications. Once they said that their capabilities did not allow it, that it did not allow for promotion to the positions of serious work against the enemy. Another time they said that the international situation did not allow for that. Yet another time they said: We need time to prepare for that.

This pretext of needing time to be prepared was particularly presented in past years when we were about to undertake a certain action against our enemy.

Sometimes they said this struggle was of no avail and that another method for getting what we can obtain of our rights must be found. At other times they blamed history and criticized the miserable past Arab history, particularly that which began in 1948. They blamed others, although they themselves were and still are part of those others. They blamed the Arabs, as they say, because those Arabs have lost many suitable opportunities to regain some of their rights. They have repeatedly said that we, the Arabs, were mistaken when this or that plan was rejected, and that we must now accept a certain plan, considering it the best possible solution. Yet at another time they said we must address the world public and tell them what we want, as if we did not know what we wanted and as if we have been marching toward an unspecified target since 1948 despite the repeated Arab wars, despite all of the Arab efforts exerted, and despite all of the Arab blood shed throughout the past years.

Many excuses and justifications are put forth each time we propose serious action, because such an action requires sacrifices and efforts. Justifications become wisdoms and wisdoms become rules which are used as bases for leveling accusations, particularly against Syria. We and you have heard many of these accusations — such as being (?negative), impractical, and extremist — and other such expressions which they were taught to say. The Arabs say: Take wisdom from the mouth of the crazy.

It is good that they said this [applause] and did not say: Take wisdom from the mouth of the devils [applause].

These days, we hear the slogan of Arab solidarity. Arab solidarity is a fine expression which no one contests.

It is well known that Syria has seriously raised the slogan of Arab solidarity since 1970. [applause] This is no secret to any Arab. Then why do we differ? They seek the slogan of solidarity these days while we, in the past 15 years, have raised the slogan of Arab solidarity and have worked to achieve it. They do so because they seek Arab solidarity only when they want to cover a defeatist act or a defeatist deal. Al-Sadat went to Jerusalem, signed the Camp David accords, and called for Arab solidarity to distract the attention of the Egyptian masses from the restrictions that Camp David imposed on the Egyptian masses, to distract the attention of the Arab masses from the restrictions concerning Egypt that were contained in the Camp David, and subsequently to generalize the Camp David restrictions so that they would impose shackles on the entire Arab homeland.

Thus, there will be no one left to raise his voice against this historical conspiracy. Two twins [King Husayn and 'Arafat] went to Cairo and returned raising the banner of Arab solidarity. They ask us to express solidarity with Camp David. They are not raising the slogan of Arab solidarity out of love for Egypt. They are calling for Arab solidarity with Camp David's Egypt. What they fear most is that Egypt would come out of the Camp David accords. They want the Egypt of Camp David and a solidarity with Camp David so that this Camp may become a bridge that would lead them to Israel.

Regarding Egypt, no one in this nation has been more eager than us to meet with Egypt. As has been known throughout history, Syria has always sought solidarity with Egypt. It has always been in militant solidarity with Egypt against the invaders. We have never acted otherwise. [applause] We now want solidarity with Egypt — Egypt of history, dignity, and pride — Egypt, the proud power which was the vanguard of strugglers against any invasion to which our Arab nation was exposed. We want to meet with the Egypt of history, and not with the Egypt of Camp David. [applause] When we say that we want Egypt without Camp David, we do not ask for miracles, nor do we blare out slogans as some do or say in their speeches. We only ask that Egypt remain as it was, playing a militant, historic, pan-Arab, and pioneering role for the Arab nation and the Middle East in general. [applause] Anyone who wants a humiliated, subjugated Egypt immersed in the Camp David quagmire, an Egypt which stands at Israel's side in all of its conspiracies and designs of expansion in the region, anyone who wants such an Egypt and those who want to achieve solidarity with such an Egypt, let them go to hell and burn there. We will never burn with them. [applause]

When we talk about Egypt, no one can match or surpass us, because it was Syria which blended with Egypt in one pot and formed with it the first serious Arab unity in modern Arab history. [applause] Those running after Camp David, and struggling so that Camp David will not fall, are the ones who plotted against Syria's unity with Egypt. All of us remember well their role in the secessionist plot. It was we in Syria who planned war or wars with Egypt and waged them under one command while others watched.

When we talk about Egypt, we talk about people who are dear to us. [applause] We are pained to see Egypt, which is the largest Arab country, relinquishing its historic role. However, we are confident that no matter how fierce the plotting against the Egyptian people is and no matter how strong the attempts at deception against the Egyptian people are, the day will come when the Egyptian people will destroy the shackles of Camp

David. [applause] We want historic Egypt without Camp David, because we want to defend ourselves against the ambitions aimed against Egypt, Syria, and the entire Arab world. By saying this, we are defending the peoples of both Egypt and Syria as well as those of the Arab nation. [applause]

Egypt's people will not agree to see the Israeli flag fluttering in Cairo skies forever, while Israel is occupying Arab lands and displacing millions of Arabs. Egypt's people will never agree to relinquish their distinguished historic role, nor will they agree to stand at the bottom of the ladder while Israel is at the top. Egypt's people will never agree to see Egypt retreat and shrink in order to be a fellow satellite revolving in the orbit of Israeli hegemony at a time when Israel is exercising the role of the colonialist policeman in this region.

I tell those who speak about solidarity that solidarity is our slogan to which we adhere and for which we struggle. However, the solidarity which Syria and the Arab masses want and for which they struggle is a solidarity based on antagonizing, and not on being loyal to, imperialism and Zionism. [applause] The solidarity which Syria and the masses want is a solidarity that bolsters steadfastness and not capitulation. With determination and honor, we extend our hand to everyone who seeks an Arab solidarity based on steadfastness against aggression and expansion. [applause] With determination and honor we extend our hand to everyone who seeks an Arab solidarity on a basis that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism. [applause]

Steadfastness in the face of the enemy is not a matter of muscle-flexing. It is an irreplaceable option for all those who can see, because Israel has many ambitions in the Arab homeland. [applause] This is why we want to stress to those who attempt to delude people that they cannot deceive us and the Arab masses. [applause] They will not be able to cover their intentions, no matter how hard they will fight in order to provide an effective cover for these intentions. Their efforts will be in vain. They will never achieve their objectives through these efforts. In fact, they are exposing their deviation.

This innovation they have recently come out with is a sad and ridiculous thing. It is the innovation of independent Palestinian decisionmaking. They have tried to use this innovation to cover the twisted, narrow, and disgraceful road — the road to capitulation and submission on which they are proceeding. This innovation will deceive no one. Here, too, it is useful to remember that when Al-Sadat signed the 1975 Sinai agreement, this agreement was without any doubt a political agreement. This agreement contained blatant political retractions, and at the time Al-Sadat had called it an agreement on the disengagement of forces — despite the fact that disengagement between the warring forces took place in 1973. They sought to carry out deception, even through the names given to the agreements.

As you remember, Syria opposed this agreement at the time. Al-Sadat raised his voice in anxiety, lamenting the PLO's independence, and called for Syrian tutelage to be removed from the Palestinian decisionmaking. He wanted to say that the PLO supports the Sinai agreement, but that Syrian tutelage deprives Palestinian decisionmaking from its independence and that it does not allow the Palestinian leaders to express their real opinions in support of the Sinai agreement. This is what he also did after his visit to Jerusalem.

The Camp David echelons, this pair which constitute the Camp David echelons, are now repeating the same capitulatory tunes: independent Palestinian national decisionmaking, the independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking, and the PLO's independence. I personally neither know nor remember when they did adopt a Palestinian national decision that we opposed. When did they adopt or try to adopt a Palestinian national decision that we prevented them from adopting? It is well-known that Syria played the most basic and important role in supporting the status of the PLO. [applause]

Syria was behind the Arab decision that was adopted at the Arab summit in Rabat which recognized the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [applause] They remember this very well. Some of the Palestinian leaders who were invited to attend this congress and are with us in this meeting hall were present at the Rabat summit. They listened in detail to the discussions about this topic. We all remember that the trend which prevailed at the summit at the time did not permit the adoption of a resolution saying that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This was not the trend which existed at the Rabat summit at the beginning. There was a completely different trend. Syria discussed the matter with the brothers in light of what it believed would be in the Arabs' interest. It explained its viewpoint on this issue. In my opinion, Syria played a basic role in convincing our brother conferees at the time that it would be in the Arab nation's benefit if the summit decided that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the summit adopted such a decision. [applause]

It is worth mentioning that those who are now lamenting the independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking and of the PLO are those who stood in the opposite trench and who opposed adopting the decision I mentioned. After all this, how can Syria do this and oppose independent Palestinian national decisionmaking? We understood the Palestinian national decisionmaking and have supported it on the basis that it is an administrative, organizational decision, and a decision to fight the enemy. On this basis, we agreed with, supported, and fought with others to have the PLO become the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

What national independent Palestinian decision do they say we do not support? Do they want to surrender, and do they expect us to bless their surrender? Do they want to say that the Palestine question is only theirs and not also ours? If we agree to this and consider it an independent national decision, what will be the result? They know the result and want it. How can the Palestine question not be ours, even though we are placing all of this country's human, military, economic, and political resources at the service of this question? [applause] If we agree that the Palestine question is only theirs, does this not mean that we have to relinquish this question? It is true, comrade brothers, that we in Syria sympathize with every liberation cause in the world, stand at its side, and extend it all possible material, moral, and political support. However, no people in this world can mobilize their human, economic, and military potential or pool all their

efforts and live in a state of war for scores of years for the sake of any cause unless it is their cause. [applause]

I want to say most clearly, especially to Palestinian citizens wherever they live, that the most dangerous thing facing the Palestine question and the Palestinian people is the plot that is being concocted through the slogan of independent Palestinian decisionmaking. Those raising and entrenching this slogan want on the one hand to peddle a liquidatory move against the Palestinian people's cause and on the other to empty the Palestine question of its pan-Arab purport. If this is correct and if this materializes, the Palestine question will undoubtedly become one of the smallest issues of this era.

The Arab regimes which are playing a sly role in this regard realize the extent of the dangers posed to the Palestinian people and the Palestine question by this slogan and by the continuing differences over it. Therefore, these regimes have realized that the best weapon they can carry against the Palestinian people and their question is that of the national independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

What will happen if the non-Palestinian Arabs inside and outside Syria are convinced that the Palestine question is only the question of those who live in Palestine or of those who were expelled from Palestine, and that it is not their issue? Every single one of you here now, when you become convinced that the Palestine question is not yours, will you find a catalyst to martyr for the sake of Palestine, the Palestine question, or the cause of which they convinced you is not yours? Certainly, no; because moral, human, political, and principal logic says that man becomes a martyr for the sake of a cause which he believes is his. [applause]

Those who talk about the independent Palestinian decisionmaking, particularly the Palestinians, are well aware of the consequences of their behavior and struggle for the sake of this dictum, if this can be called struggle. They know where they are going and know that we know where they are going. However, we in Syria are owners of principles, and Syria believes in its pan-Arab issues. It cannot be affected by winds or by treacherous stabs. Syria was behind the decision stipulating that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative.

Syria was the first to bring the PLO to the UN Security Council [applause] when it [Syria] refused to extend the UN forces' mandate in the Golan Heights unless the Palestine question was discussed at the UN Security Council with the participation of a PLO delegate. Israel rejected our request at that time, the atmosphere became tense, and a war was about to erupt after the October and the Golan wars between us and Israel. Syria continued to stand fast and refused to extend the UN forces' mandate at that time, despite all of the warnings we received from more one than one side. We rejected the extension of this mandate unless the UN Security Council discussed the Palestine question in the presence of the PLO.

Our objective was only to represent the PLO at the UN Security Council. We have achieved what we sought, and the PLO has entered the UN Security Council as an observer. [applause] Syria, from whose land the first bullet was shot toward Palestine and which has fought and still is fighting for the sake of Palestine, will continue to be with the Palestinian people and the Palestine question despite the weaklings, capitulationists, and conspirators. [applause]

We are sure that those capitulationists and conspirators will never represent the Palestinian Arab people. They will never be the real representatives of these people's hopes and aspirations. These people have struggler vanguards — nationalist figures and forces — who refuse to liquidate the Palestinian Arab people's question. These figures and forces are leading struggle in a real manner. Their role will be clearer in the future. They will prove that they are leading the Palestinian Arab people's action and struggle. [applause]

We will continue to be with the Palestinian people and with the Palestine question. Syria will continue to be a strong supporter for those who seek to struggle for the sake of Palestine. We will fight with the Palestinian strugglers in order to restore the Palestinian people's complete rights. [applause] The Palestinian people's vanguards — nationalist figures and organizations — where ever they may be and where ever their elements may be, will continue to find Syria's doors open. They will always find that Syria's land is wide. The facts of life have proved that these strugglers represent their people at all times and in all places. With you Palestinian strugglers, wherever you may be, we will share good and bad days. [applause]

O comrades: Israel's ambitions in our country and in the Arab homeland in general cannot be foiled by wishes. Only fierce, continuous, effective, and long struggle and determination to shoulder the consequences of this struggle with all its sacrifices can end Israel's ambitions. This is what the hero Lebanese Arab people are doing these days. Our people in Lebanon are teaching a lesson to all Arabs and paving the way to destroy Zionist arrogance and shatter Zionist dreams of expansion in the Arab homeland. They are explaining this way to all those who search for it.

Our people in Lebanon have turned their backs to the opportunist disputes with which many Arabs are preoccupied. They have concluded that the way to repulse and punish the enemy for its crimes is firstly, secondly, and thirdly the road of martyrdom. [applause] Our people in Lebanon have toppled the pretexts used by the defeatists in the Arab world who are giving lessons in the form of preaching and sermons in order to cover up their actions and delude others. The Arabs cannot restore their rights unless they follow the path being followed by the national Lebanese resistance. [applause] The Arabs cannot maintain their dignity unless they materialize the slogan of martyrdom or victory as materialized by the national Lebanese resistance. [applause]

We stand at Lebanon's side and very strongly support the national Lebanese resistance. We are working with our brothers in Lebanon to improve the security situation. We hope that security will spread there, and that the Lebanese Arab citizen will live a normal life, a quiet and stable life, because this will restore things to their normal state — a quiet and stable life for the Lebanese citizen — and will help to provide the suitable atmosphere for the national resistance, enabling it to live in better conditions and to produce better results in confronting the enemy.

[applause] Israel knows this and knows that tranquillity in Lebanon will improve the conditions of the national Lebanese resistance and will prompt all Lebanese people to stand behind the national Lebanese resistance. Therefore, it is doing its best to prevent security in any Lebanese area. We and our concerned brothers in Lebanon know this. Therefore, we must intensify our efforts and do our best as soon as possible in order to establish security and devote our efforts in Lebanon and Syria to resisting this usurping and greedy enemy. My words are well understood by our citizens as well as by our enemies.

Instability, in our opinion, has not prevented and will not prevent the Lebanese national resistance from carrying out its role. It carries out this role in a continuous manner. However, better circumstances will give us better results. On behalf of this congress and the Syrian Arab people, I greet the Lebanese national resistance. [applause] I also greet the inhabitants of southern Lebanon, those proud people who are the backbone of the Lebanese national resistance against the enemy's will. Together, we have an appointment with victory, God willing. [applause]

Comrades, while we are waging our battle against a colonialist force of invasion which seeks to occupy more land to establish an Israeli state from the Nile to the Euphrates, and which enjoys the support and assistance of a superpower, the United States, which provides Israel with weapons, funds, and political cover, we must reiterate our appreciation for and respect to those friends who stand at our side in our just struggle and who strongly support us, particularly our friends in the socialist countries, headed by the USSR. [applause] The USSR waged wars, experienced Nazi invasion, confronted this invasion in a forceful and courageous manner, and succeeded in shattering Nazi pride and might after having given 20 million victims. This USSR knows very well the meaning of this neo-Nazi invasion which our Arab nation is experiencing. Proceeding from the principles in which this friendly country believes, the USSR strongly supports us. We greet it and all of the other socialist countries, and thank them for all the support and assistance they offer us. [applause]

Comrades, our march is long and it is not strewn with roses. It is a march full of hardships and blood. In spite of this, it remains the march for right and justice. It is a march for the defense of our destiny and the fate of the people and the nation. We must prepare for this march. Let us entrench our national unity. Let us strengthen popular organizations and our party activities to the utmost. Let us entrench the experiment of the Progressive National Front. [applause] Particularly since we have accumulated the experience of the past 13 years. This experience was a rich and vanguard one.

Let us improve our administrative and economic working methods. Let us instill a sense of responsibility in all our people. [applause] Let us continue to organize and train the younger generation. [applause] Let us proceed as far as we can in our organization of peasants and workers. [applause] Let us proceed with strengthening our Armed Forces. [applause] Let us instill martyrdom as a sublime value in all of our citizens' hearts, and let us proceed forward with optimism and confidence to achieve victory. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Message From CPSU

LD052249 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1714 GMT 5 Jan 85

["Text" of undated CPSU Central Committee message to the Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress; read by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general — live]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee cordially greets the representatives of the Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The work of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party congress is taking place in a complex international atmosphere. International tension has become tangibly severe, and the danger of the outbreak of a world war has increased due to the behavior of the aggressive imperialist circles. The imperialist forces' persistent efforts to push the wheel of history backward, contain socialism, undermine the independence of liberated countries, and impose their hegemony are adversely affecting the situation in the Middle East, which has turned into an ever-explosive hotbed. For many years, the peoples of the Arab countries have been facing the expansion of the United States and its ally Israel, which is threatening the independence and freedom of these countries.

The Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is firmly struggling for its national interests, and refuses to succumb to the attempts of imperialism and its agents to enforce capitulation deals on the Arabs. It also supports a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement, whose main bases must be liberating the Arab territories which were occupied by the Zionist aggressors and guaranteeing the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is joined in this struggle by the other national parties and organizations in Syria that are members of the Progressive National Front.

We in the USSR highly appreciate the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's active line that is hostile to imperialism. Our country will continue to give support to the Syrian people and other Arab peoples in order to strengthen their independence, sovereignty, and march on the path of progress. The cohesion of all the Arab national forces and the unification of their efforts in the struggle against imperialist plots is of extreme importance in achieving these objectives. We point out with satisfaction the identity of our two parties' stands on basic international issues and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's support for the Soviet peace initiatives, as well as its endeavors to continue to strengthen Soviet-Syrian relations on the strong basis of the friendship treaty which was signed in 1980 and to develop ties with the CPSU.

The relations of solidarity and cooperation between the USSR and the Syrian Arab Republic, and between the CPSU and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, correspond to the interests of both our peoples. It is an important fact in the struggle for the sake of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. We wish the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the friendly Syrian Arab people further success in carrying out the tasks of independent, progressive development. Long live Soviet-Syrian friendship and cooperation.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee

Libya's Jallud Addresses Congress

JN052135 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1719 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Speech by 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council in Libya, at the opening session of the Eighth Ba'th Party's Regional Congress in Damascus live]

[Text] In the name of God. At the beginning, brothers, allow me to greet great struggler Brother Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, [applause] who has transformed both Syria's theoretical role in steadfastness and its political role into effective material steadfastness in confronting Zionism, imperialism, and reactionaryism. I also greet the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party strugglers, the great Syrian people, and the great Syrian Arab Army [applause] — an Army that is stationed along a large front extending through Lebanon and the Golan for the sake of defending not Syria, but the Arab nation. Syria is the first line of defense from which we should not be allowed to withdraw.

Brothers: The convocation of the eighth Ba'th Party Congress comes at a very important stage. It is held at the beginning of a stage of pan-Arab awakening that forms a dividing line between the defeatist political scenario and the military defeats since 1984. The latest of these defeats was the siege of nationalist Beirut and the attempt to destroy the most noble phenomenon, as Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir described it, the phenomenon of Palestinian resistance and the transformation of the Palestinian revolution from a fighting revolutionary fedayeen movement that adheres to the rifle into a mere political movement.

Yes, brothers, there is a dividing line, and I deem it my duty to narrate the signs and phenomena of this pan-Arab awakening. The Fatah revolutionary uprising against the reactionary right-wing was the first national Palestinian awakening. Why? Because of the role the Palestinian revolution plays in the Arab revolution movement. The Arab revolution was staged on the basis of liberating Palestine, and on the basis of unity, socialism, and liberating the masses. Therefore, the uprising was one of the starting points of this awakening, in addition to the mountain and [Beirut's southern] suburb war, the clashes with the U.S. air fleet [as heard], the shooting down of U.S. aircraft over Arab lands, and the capture of U.S. pilots. The Arab individual has not been accustomed to this situation. This developed into the NATO and U.S. military and political defeat.

A new and unique fedayeen action also emerged and gave this pan-Arab awakening a unique type of fedayeen action whose perpetrator knows he will be the first victim. We saw a new fedayeen action. We saw the new person who mines himself with explosives in order to destroy the enemy, knowing that he would be the first victim of this fedayeen operation. We saw fedayeen action unprecedented since 1984. We saw the fedayeen drive booby-trapped and mined cars and storm fortifications, knowing that they would be the first victims of the operation.

Brothers, a short time ago we spoke in praise of the fedayeen action that the Japanese pilots carried out against the U.S. fleet during World War II. However, what has happened in Lebanon was the best fedayeen action in this age. We watched the debate between Reagan and Mondale, and we saw that Mondale attempted to outdo Reagan. He accused him of doing nothing to deter those who lead fedayeen actions against the U.S. forces. Reagan told Mondale: "I challenge you to do anything. He said that those people want to die, and you cannot do anything about those who want to die. [Words indistinct] in the Arab homeland we have an ideology of loving martyrdom and death, and this is a new factor in the region. This was strengthened by the emergence of the armed resistance in southern Lebanon. [applause]

This resistance will not be confined to liberating southern Lebanon. It will also pave the way for the liberation of Palestine. There is a big question in the arena on the political and the military levels, namely how the liberation of Palestine can be achieved. Is it through regular war? Is it through regular and popular wars together? Or is it through fedayeen action? The cross-country and mountain wars and the valiant resistance in southern Lebanon can begin to answer this question. However, we believe in superficial things and we do not attempt to deepen these things. If we try to entrench these ideas in the Arab homeland, we will realize that they constitute answers to specific questions.

Brothers, I have to admit that there is the beginning of a pan-Arab recession and an attempt to impose a new stalemate on the Arab situation. Brothers, we in Libya believe that Arab Lebanon's future cannot be achieved through the national unity government's policy statement. We also do not believe that the expulsion of the Zionist forces can take place through the Al-Naqurah talks.

Southern Lebanon can only be liberated by escalating the heroic resistance in southern Lebanon and by supporting the southern Lebanese people. Arab Lebanon's national and pan-Arab future can be achieved by strengthening the National Democratic Front, the Amal movement, and the nationalist forces, and by seriously working for a nationalist unity to be followed by a revolutionary Palestinian unity and a pan-Arab unity. Brothers, we in Libya seize the opportunity of this very important eighth Ba'th Party Congress to call for reformulating the alliance between Syria, Libya, the National Democratic Front, and all nationalist forces with the Palestinian revolution's factions. This is because despite the fact that this victory was achieved geographically in Lebanon, it has been achieved within the framework of a pan-Arab identity. I warn against viewing this battle and these victories from a geographical point of view.

This battle that took place in Lebanon and in which these four forces unified their ranks is the battle of the entire Arab nation. A very important element was proved by that battle. The problem as viewed by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is a psychological defeat. The Arab individual is defeated psychologically, but what happened in Lebanon — for example, the expulsion of the U.S. forces, the military and political defeat of the United States, the abrogation of the Lebanese Camp David represented by the 17 May agreement, and the escalation of the heroic operations by the armed Lebanese national resistance — created new political realities, indicated certain other realities, and foiled attempts that some forces of capitulation, imperialism, and reactionaryism made to peddle political and historical falsehoods in the Arab region.

Before these heroic battles, many Arab rulers — and even some educated Arabs — used to say that 90 percent of the cards are in U.S. hands, that the United States is so powerful that others cannot stage wars against it, and that the Zionist army cannot be defeated. Despite this, the peaceful masses in the mountain area and in the southern suburb and a simple resistance operation with RPG's, Kalashnikovs, machine guns, and explosives succeeded in defeating 50 vessels off the Lebanese and Syrian coast. We defeated the *New Jersey*. [applause] The old men, the old women, the youths, and the children whose heroism we witnessed on television are the ones who defeated the United States and proved that the solution is not in U.S. hands, but in our hands and within our will. They proved that the cards are not in U.S. hands but in our hands, and that the Zionist army is a paper army that collapsed under heroic resistance.

All of you have learned about a Pentagon report to the U.S. Congress that the *WASHINGTON POST* [as heard] published. This report says that according to what happened in the Lebanese war, the Israeli Army suffers from a weak command. The *WASHINGTON POST* published the entire report that says that the Zionist army suffers from bad training, poor command, and poor communications, and that about 800 of the 4,000 Israelis who were killed or wounded were killed by the Zionists themselves.

Therefore, the war and the pan-Arab confrontation in Lebanon have created new realities and have given us hope for victory. We have achieved victory over ourselves. The defeated Arab psychology began to be challenged and a new belief has emerged. This belief is represented by the desire to be martyred, by indifference to the United States, and by the fact that the United States can be defeated. In fact, the United States was defeated with simple individual arms used by men who were determined to be martyred. This was mentioned by Hafiz al-Asad, president and secretary general of the Ba'th Party, in his important speech. He stressed the importance of martyrdom and the insistence on victory.

O brothers, I will seize this opportunity to offer the following program regarding Lebanon. First, proceeding from the principle that Lebanon's future cannot be formulated by the national unity government's statement — although we respect that government — and the Zionist forces cannot be expelled by the Al-Naqurah negotiations, we in the Jamahiriyah seize the convocation of the eighth congress to offer the following practical proposals:

1. Draw up a plan to increase armed struggle in the south and provide all the necessary weapons, funds, and training, because this is the most important issue we are facing. We in the Jamahiriyah are ready to face up to our responsibilities regarding the popular resistance war in the south [applause] and the steadfastness in the south.

2. The formulation of an alliance among Syria, Libya, the Lebanese nationalist forces, and the Palestinian revolution forces on comprehensive and clear foundations and within the framework of a pan-Arab strategy.

3. We believe that the enemy — and I do not want to go into detail here and define who is the enemy — will not accept defeat unless it feels that the military, organizational, and popular strength of the nationalist forces in Lebanon — particularly the National Democratic Front, Amal movement, and all nationalist forces — is daily increasing. In this respect, the Libyan people are ready to fully assume their role of supporting this confrontation and of continuing to wrest the initiative. [applause]

Brothers, with respect to the Palestinian arena, there was a possibility of interpretation before the Amman theatrical act, before the reactionary right-wing Palestinians had settled matters, but after that the reactionary right-wing Palestinians settled matters. [sentence as heard] Why had they settled matters? They did so because they sensed that their balance of power has tipped in favor of capitulation and reactionaries. We now propose the following program:

1. There should not be a National Alliance or a Democratic Alliance. We believe that all these factions are nationalist forces, and that the reactionary right-wing Palestinians, the reactionary right-wing Arabs, and U.S. imperialism have decided where they stand. Therefore, we call on these factions to return to their normal alliance, the one alliance. Otherwise, there will be axes. The conflict is a political and social one. Reactionary and right-wing Palestinians have defind their stand. The revolutionary forces, or the resistance, must also define their stand and form a front with all the Palestinian nationalist forces, the revolutionary intellectuals, and all popular organizations in order to struggle against 'Arafat's trend and the reactionary and right-wing trend with the objective of toppling them. [applause]

If Zionism, the United States, colonialism, and the reactionary quarters have used Al-Sadat as the Trojan horse, the most dangerous thing is for these forces to find the Palestinian horse. Of course, we in the Arab homeland believe that the Palestinian cause is a pan-Arab cause. This means that the dispute is not about borders. It is a pan-Arab dispute, a dispute about existence. Others in this world view this cause as a special national cause.

If they find the Palestinian horse and succeed in exploiting this horse, the position of Syria and Libya would weaken. There are also several centrist [wasatiyah] forces that have not yet defined their position because of the lack of a decisive Palestinian national stand. I do not want to say more.

Therefore, we call for an alternative front to that of 'Arafat and its course. This front should not just issue protests and statements against 'Arafat's treasonous line; it should fight this line and nip it in the bud, so that we will not be surprised by a catastrophe. [applause] If this materializes, we announce here before this very important congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party of steadfast, revolutionary Syria that we will be ready to use all of our resources to support those forces which make up their mind and decide to fight 'Arafat, topple his line, and nip it in the bud. [applause]

However, I must warn the two [Palestinian] alliances that certain forces might not make up their minds. Brothers, in every nation, faction, family, and human group there are those who take the initiative. Those who take the initiative must not wait for those who are hesitant. Those who make up their minds in the two alliances should form the command and front and begin fighting

the 'Arafat line. In the meantime, the dialogue can continue with the hesitants who cannot make up their minds. We say that, henceforth, if these forces do not make up their minds, they will be committing national and pan-Arab treason. [applause]

Brothers, the current Arab reality is experiencing several contradictions. Why? Because, if most nations have achieved their national unity before social revolution, we in the Arab homeland have unfortunately not yet achieved our national [qawmiyah] unity, despite the existence of the social revolution. This compels us to [tackle] our national unity with our social revolution. The Palestine question is not just a political question, but also a social question. In other words, the Palestine question is closely linked to Arab liberation and unity.

The Arab reality has reached this phase — that phase preceding national awakening that I talked about — for several reasons. First, there is the lack of revolutionary theory that takes into consideration the national characteristics of the Arab nation as well as the popular [words indistinct] the lack of this theory has led to the lack of strategy. Consequently, this led to the dispersion of Arab efforts and to regionalist ideology.

The next point I want to speak about is keeping the masses out of the picture. We as progressive revolutionary forces have kept the masses out of the picture and have made judgments without them. We cannot keep the masses out of the picture and make judgments on the basis that the masses [words indistinct]. We cannot keep the masses out of the picture whenever we want, and then expect them to respond and do what we want. We must pursue a program to enlighten the masses and to make the strategic objective clear to them.

This is why we in Libya call on the Eighth Ba'th Party Congress, especially at this historic period in which Syria and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party have a brave leader such as Brother President Hafiz al-Asad — we call on Syria and Libya to formulate the comprehensive strategy for the pan-Arab struggle. It is not important when this strategy and its programs are implemented. However, Syria and Libya should agree on a clear and specific strategy with pan-Arab strategic objectives and methods. We also call for immediately establishing unity between Syria and Libya. [applause]

Second, I call for establishing this unity within weeks or months, because the unity decision is continuing and there is no coordination, cooperation, or alliance. [sentence as heard] The alliance between us and Syria has been established from the time of the corrective movement in Syria. [applause] However, we want to turn this alliance into unity. One state with one international identity, one unified state without passing through union [ittihd], cooperation, or coordination — one unified state. [applause] Unity between Syria and Libya is the unity for which the Arab masses are enthusiastic. It is the kind of unity that all the unionist and nationalist Arabs want. It is the fighting unity that works for the political, ideological, and military awakening in the region. [applause] This is why it is a fighting unity through which we can coerce geography [words indistinct] Syria's material, militant, historical, and geographical ressources with Libya's material, historical, and militant resources. [applause]

Third, we call for escalating the pan-Arab revolutionary action, because balance with the enemy on the military level is, of course, a number of modern tanks, planes, and missiles like the enemy's tanks, planes, and missiles. However, real balance can be achieved through a social revolution, through the revolution of achieving victory in other Arab arenas, of restoring other Arab arenas in order to restore balance to the Arab situation and of redressing balance in favor of the Arab revolution's forces and masses.

Fourth, we call for deepening the popular democratic Arab action, because the masses cannot achieve victory over the imperialist and Zionist enemy if they cannot achieve victory over feudalism, the bourgeoisie, and the forces of exploitation and dictatorship. [applause] Therefore, we call for strengthening the masses' political and social freedom, for deepening democracy, and for restoring the Arab masses' confidence. This is because the masses' victory over their internal enemies is the means to the Arab masses' victory over the imperialists and Zionists.

We call for changes in the Arab state of affairs. We call on Syria and Libya to carry out acts of violence against the enemy and to accept the acts of violence which it directs against us, because this is the only way to change the Arab state of affairs. This is so because in the state of slumber and passive opposition, Al-Sadat and 'Arafat have emerged asking us: What other alternative do you have? They deceived the people by claiming that we want neither war nor peace. Of course this is false. We call for the formulation of a strategy that will start with carrying out acts of violence against the enemy and with agreeing for the enemy to carry out acts of violence against us.

We must proceed on this course in order to accustom the masses to struggle and to bring them out of the state of slumber, relaxation, and submission and into the state brother leader Hafiz al-Asad aspires to reach — that of martyrdom. [applause] The state of no peace, no war has created the axis of King Husayn-'Arafat, Saddam Husayn, Husni Mubarak, and the cowardly reactionaries. That's why we call for the imposition of a new Arab state of affairs, beginning with carrying out acts of violence against the enemy and accepting its violent acts. This will create new circumstances. We have such an example in Lebanon, where fighting has developed.

Brothers, it is a great honor for me to address you who are strugglers, and you leaders who are chosen by the people. This congress is being convened at the beginning of a comprehensive pan-Arab resurgence, against which conspiracies are being concocted. These conspiracies seek to check this resurgence and make us return to our previous state of affairs, the end of which had been the Beirut siege and the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

In order to prevent this from taking place, I call for formulating a comprehensive strategy among Syria, the Lebanese nationalist forces, the Palestinian revolution forces, and Libya in order to escalate the struggle and to benefit from this resurgence, develop it, and create a new state of affairs in the Arab homeland that would place us on the sound course for the liberation of Palestine. Let us proceed forward, and revolutionary struggle will continue. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Amal's Birri Addresses Congress

JN0609027 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1818 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Speech by Amal movement leader Nabih Birri at the opening session of the Eighth Ba'th Party's Regional Congress in Damascus — live]

[Excerpts] In His exalted name. Your Excellency brother struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, [applause] members of the party's eighth regional congress, heads and members of participant delegations, ladies and gentlemen: — God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Your Excellency Mr President, the south today is the cause because of the support and assistance that we receive from you and not anyone else [applause] and because of the sacrifices of your sons and their infinite ability to exercise steadfastness and confrontation. The south pledges to those who seek the honor of struggling toward liberation, and not those who were rejected by the cause and who can only revolve within the circle of making bargains that are mostly aimed at achieving a cheap political gain and at polishing the picture before bargaining on the value of the cause and the people's dignity, yes, the south pledges to you — you are better equipped to understand its heroism and sacrifices — that this is the course and there is no retreat from it, that the occupier shall not have peace in our land [applause], and that national sovereignty will not be relinquished despite all internal circumstances and despite all internal and external conspiracies. This militant line is characterized by a very simple equation; namely, we have made death in the south part of our life.

This practical, simple concept of the meaning of martyrdom cannot be comprehended by the Israeli computer and U.S. arrogance despite the numerous lessons that should have been learned, particularly by the United States which is deeply involved in the conspiracy and heavily colluding against this nation. It is sufficient to note here the 6 March uprising that took Beirut and Lebanon from the Israeli age to the Arab age and which forced the departure of the U.S. military and political fleets. However, this great lesson was not enough for the United States and its conspiratorial lackeys. They believe that they can compensate for what was lost through political maneuvers.

Quite sincerely, we agreed to the Al-Naqurah talks because these talks are a continuation of the struggle on the basis of the armistice agreement and international resolutions. The political activities will be accompanied and not surpassed by the resistance operations in the south; in other words, to use the Al-Naqurah military talks in the service of the resistance objectives and absolutely not the opposite. Here, we insist that these talks are purely military ones and they should fall within the framework of the armistice agreement and international resolutions. We do not seek any other agreement that resembles the 17 May agreement. We cannot possibly agree to any political program or agreement. [applause]

In this regard, it is known that UNIFIL is not a new thing, but a mission stipulated in [U.N.] Resolution 425. These forces have been in the south since 1978 and everyone has known its task since then. The task of these forces have been specified since that time. It is known that Israel was the one that prevented the arrival of these forces to the international borders and prevented the deployment of the Lebanese Army at these borders. Where does this new novelty the United States is formulating, that these forces should head north, instead of south, come from? We seek to reach our southern borders and not our northern borders, which are in our hands. We do not differ with Syria over this [applause]. What we seek is the security of Lebanon and not Israel. What we seek is security from Israel, not security from Syria.

This is a new U.S.-Israeli conspiracy aimed at the following:

1. Foiling the national resistance and placing it face to face with the international community. This is because a UNIFIL deployment in the area between the two rivers will prevent the resistance from continuing the task of liberation unless it clashes with UNIFIL.

2. It is a conspiracy to creat a new Cyprus in the south and partition it into two parts in preparation to expel people and segregate the population.

3. Establishing a canton stretching from Al-Litani up to the borders allowing for the creation of other cantons that will divide Lebanon and the region. UNIFIL will be a buffer force separating these cantons until the time they are declared, as has happened in Cyprus.

This is not speculation or information, but a simple reading of the Israeli Labor Party's policy in 1978. What did it do then? The Labor Party announced that it would withdraw to appease world public opinion and agreed to [U.N.] Resolution 425 just as it is doing today. The UNIFIL force arrived and the [Israeli Army] began to withdraw until it reached the so-called free Lebanon. It is going to withdraw now. However, instead of being stationed at Bayt Yahun, it will stop at Al-Litani; instead of the 10 kmm border strip it will be 30 km, and instead of free Lebanon being run by Sa'd Haddad it will be run by Antoine Lahd, since the former is dead. Moreover, just as UNIFIL was stationed in the then north free Lebanon, it will be required to be stationed in the new north free Lebanon.

The Labor Party is working in accordance with the 1978 plan but in a more enlarged form. However, Israel has forgotten that there is a great deal of difference between 1978 and 1985. The Amal movement and the Lebanese nationalist forces grew and became stronger during that period. Israel is the one that is detained in the south. We do not ask it to withdraw if it can stay. [applause] Israel is the one that is detained in the south though geographically it occupies the south. However, the contents are ours. It did not know and cannot ignore the importance of the alliance between the Lebanese nationalist forces and Syria led by Secretary General Brother President al-Asad [applause].

It ignores the fact that this alliance was the principal cause for the eclipse of the so-called Israeli age and its collapse through the 6 March uprising's great achievements — the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, the collapse of internal hegemony, Lebanon's return to its Arab environment, and the departure of the Multinational Force. Syria's great role of shouldering the burden

of confronting the enemy during the darkest hours through its essential support for the Lebanese people at all political and military levels achieved these great objectives and changed the map of the suspect history. Syria today is providing Lebanon with all the political elements that will enable it to continue its great battle of liberation and unification and restoring the balance as a prelude toward achieving political stability and security by implementing the clauses of the reforms program the national unity government has promised to implement.

Mr Secretary General, a great deal of hope is pinned on you. What we are doing today will chart our history for a long time to come. We believe that we should renew the pledge which Imam al-Sadr made to you, and which he taught us. [applause]:

1. Continuing confrontation until the unconditional liberation of all Lebanese territory.

2. Backing the Lebanese-Lebanese peace and reform process, while affirming that the Lebanese political structure will only be viable if political reforms and social justice are introduced.

3. Obtaining Lebanon's complete return from the Israeli ransom, so that it can play its Arab role and help to effectively serve Arab issues, headed by the Palestine question [applause] and the cause of liberation and construction. [applause]

Junblatt Addresses Party Congress

JN0609121 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1818 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Speech by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and leader of the National Democratic Front, at the opening session of the Eighth Ba'th Party's Regional Congress in Damascus — live]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic; honorable audience: The domestic and foreign circumstances under which this conference convenes make it acquire exceptional, if not fateful, importance. Therefore, in my name and on behalf of the Progressive Socialist Party and the National Democratic Front, we would like to present some facts that we consider of common concern and basic support for the Arab liberation movement which has chosen Syria as its center and starting point.

1. The party considers the socialist transformation in Syria under the Ba'th Party's leadership a guarantee for Syria's toiling masses, as well as a means to attain the society of justice and self-sufficiency. This transformation is an impregnable wall in the face of the remnants of religious and class reactionaryism. Therefore, entrenchment and good management of this transformation will fortify Syria domestically and ensure its cohesion in the face of all plots.

2. The principle of strategic balance with the Zionist enemy acquires objective importance at this stage because it is the sole deterrence of new expansionist adventures and because it is a guarantee that will foil the various current capitulatory solutions. Even an international conference on the Middle East issue can produce no decisive positive result in the absence of a strategic balance. In this regard, we must point out the need to possess nuclear weapons and break nuclear monopoly regardless of the results due to its importance in this balance, recalling that a strategic balance with Israel is an overall Arab task. In this respect we appreciate the efforts being exerted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

3. The national Palestinian decisionmaking will be useless and meaningless if connected with suspect, capitulatory, and rightist plans. Therefore, the importance of the national Palestinian decisionmaking lies in its abidance by the pan-Arab cause, with its political, social, and military dimensions for the sake of regaining all the usurped homeland and foiling the Zionist scheme with its racist and colonialist elements.

4. The Progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon believes that closing the Lebanese file requires a radical solution that will transfer this country's Arabism from the state of outward appearance to the state of real substance; from the stage of official circumstantial option to the state of lasting pan-Arab affiliation. If Lebanon remains a lodging place for divisionist and sectarian plans linked to the interests of Western colonialism and Zionism, the causes of war will continue to exist. As long as some continue to consider Arabism a slogan that changes according to changing atmospheres, solutions will continue to be exposed to setbacks.

Lebanon will not set out on the right path unless pan-Arabism penetrates the pillars of its edifice and appears in its various institutions. Any proposal stemming from the concepts of an aligned state and sectarianism will not attain the aspired goal or solve the existing problem. The unsuccessful, misleading plans are the best evidence. In their entirety they are plans involving a narrow-minded isolationist content. It would be better to change the mentality of planners rather than plans, because a mantle of legitimacy cannot cover the fingers of seditions and isolationist plans. It has become clear that the plans demanded by the homeland are not wanted by the isolationists.

Instead of joining the plan of a sound homeland, they are still ambitious to incorporate the homeland in their factional plan, although the country's welfare urgently requires the opening of the coastal road for the nationalists' departure for the rebellious south. We commit a mistake if we hope that the invasion tools will become tools of liberation. The coastal road is a passage for nationalist convoys. Therefore, it will be impossible for us to allow this road to turn into concentration points for the isolationist forces, whose objectives are harmonious with those of the occupation forces. If our adversary thinks that foiling the real liberation plans will make him avoid carrying out his national duty toward the south and elsewhere, we the nationalists must work hard for the sake of imposing a national liberation plan that is void of any premeditated trick.

5. We in the Progressive Socialist Party emphasize the deep strategic alliance with Syria, which is the treasure of Arabism and the source of Arab pride. We also emphasize our close objective link and firm alliance with all the forces of progress and liberation, particularly the Soviet Union, the pioneer of socialist struggle [applause] on the basis of confronting the new official

U.S. terrorism. We want it to be a liberation movement of pan-Arab awakening that builds a dignified life and that is committed to the revival of this nation's advancement on all levels.

Mr President, comrade conferees: We greet you from our hearts. May God grant you success and protect your march at all times. Under the guidance of the Ba'th Party you build the future and under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] you graduate people brought up according to noble traits and honorable pan-Arab heritage. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Khalid al-Fahum Addresses Congress

JN0601155 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1804 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Speech by "PNC Speaker" Khalid al-Fahum at the opening session of the Eighth Ba'th Party's Regional Congress in Damascus — live]

[Excerpts] Great Arab struggler His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, brother members of the eighth regional congress, brothers and sisters: The convocation of the eighth congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is a significant event in the history of Arab Syria. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's congress is convening while all the sons of the Syrian Arab people and the Arab liberation forces in Palestine, Lebanon, and elsewhere in the great Arab homeland are now rallying around the pioneer leader and faithful secretary general, President Hafiz al-Asad, more than at any time before.

Brothers and sisters: We in the PLO continue to derive our strength from Syria's stand and to derive our determination from the struggle of the masses of our people inside and outside the occupied territory. We will not allow the current summer cloud to blur the sun of our genuine revolution. Our Palestinian revolution has so far achieved a great deal and there is also still a great deal before it.

We realize that all efforts must be directed toward our sacred unchangeable target, which is the restoration of the land. Therefore, we reject any measure by any person which would make us budge an inch from our target. We reject the division and deviation currently being led by Yasir 'Arafat and insist on PLO unity. We affirm that unity can only be built on the basis of complete abidance by the Charter, regulations, and PNC resolutions. The Amman meeting is null and void. It cannot under any circumstances be considered a national council. It is illegitimate from all aspects. It is the meeting about which President Reagan said verbatim: Convening the PNC in Amman instead of Damascus — these are Reagan's exact words — is considered a positive step toward peace — that is, American peace.

The crisis in the PLO was not over convening or not convening the PNC, but over differences related to the course which the PLO ought to pursue in the present critical phase and to the actions that took place in the Palestinian arena in recent years — actions which resulted in the loss of blood, lives, and properties. I called for biding our time on convening this session and giving more opportunity for dialogue in order to reach an agreement among all the active Palestinian forces and to achieve the PLO's slogans; foremost of which is Palestinian unity, and also in order to prevent a split of Palestinian ranks in accordance with God's words: And hold fast all together by the rope which God stretches out for you and be not divided among yourselves [Koranic verse]. But Yasir 'Arafat insisted on his stand and held his illegitimate council, which was unlawfully called the 17th PNC session. After deliberations with PLO Executive Committee members and leaders of most of the resistance groups, as well as with several national figures, we announced the illegitimacy of that meeting for organizational, constitutional, and political reasons.

On the political level, the Amman meeting adopted several grave political stands and decisions that openly violated the political program and resolutions of successive PNC sessions. It did not firmly reject King Husayn's grave initiative which considers UN Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for any political moves, which tacitly adopts the Reagan plan, and which also considers federation as a basis for relations while our territory is still occupied. The Amman meeting referred this initiative to the Executive Committee for study and discussion with the Jordanian side. This indicates a readiness to adopt a compromising stand on Palestinian rights and the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinians.

The PLO has rejected UN Security Council Resolution 242 and U.S. President Reagan's plan. We here affirm this rejection. If Reagan or any of his agents are enteraining any illusions that any Palestinian struggle would accept the plot of liquidation and the alternative homeland, we affirm to everyone that the Palestinian Arab people have rejected in its darkest hours in the past and will continue to reject all empty words about autonomy, the alternative homeland, and the capitulation settlements.

Brother members of the congress: In view of the aforementioned, we find it necessary to affirm the following. 1) rejection of the political and organizational results of the Amman meeting; 2) adherence to the necessity to restore the PLO's unity on a progressive, national basis that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism, and the strengthening of ties with Syria, the progressive, nationalist Lebanese forces, and the Arab steadfastness forces; 3) adherence to the legitimate political and organizational results of the 16th PNC session and working for restoring the PLO's unity on the basis of the National Charter and PNC resolutions; 4) calling on all progressive, nationalist forces for a quick, comprehensive dialogue in order to form a national front of all organizations, forces, unions, and national figures in order to confront the deviationist course and to preserve the PLO's unity.

George Hawi, Others Speak

JN0520056 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic at 1850 GMT continues to relay the Ba'th Party regional congress. At 1850 GMT, George Hawi, Lebanese Communist Party secretary general, delivers his message. He says Syria is the stronghold of Arab struggle against the imperialist onslaught

that is directed against the Palestine question following the deviation of the Palestinian right-wing and the attempt to make King Husayn speak on behalf of Palestinian people. He adds that the plotting is taking place openly under the slogan of "land for peace." Hawi urges progressive Arab forces to close their ranks and intensify the struggle under Syria's leadership. He says the Arab reactionaries will definitely fail and that the forces which defeated the United states in Lebanon and toppled the 17 May agreement will triumph again. Hawi notes the significance of the Ba'th Party congress to the Lebanese struggle and reiterates the Lebanese National Democratic Front's demands for the liberation of Lebanon, the elimination of political factionalism, and the introduction of social reforms and social justice.

At 1904 GMT, 'Isam al-Mahayiri, secretary general of the Syrian Socialist National Party in Lebanon, delivers his message. He praises Syria's steadfastness and confrontation of foreign plots in Lebanon, and denounces the Palestinian right-wing led by 'Arafat. He affirms that just as Syria succeeded in helping the Lebanese people, it will also succeed in helping the Palestinians to achieve their national rights.

At 1925 GMT, 'Umar Harab, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union in Lebanon, delivers his message. He praises the Lebanese national resistance's operations and calls for a firm Syrian- national Lebanese stand against all proposals aimed at gaining time. He says the Lebanese national forces, which are allied with all progressive forces, especially Syria, Libya, and the nationalist Palestinians, are called upon to face the plot everywhere in the Arab world.

At 1936 GMT, 'Ali 'Id, leader of the Arab Democratic Party in Lebanon, delivers his message. He reviews the Syrian-Palestinian- national Lebanese alliance's achievements in foiling the imperialist plots, including the Camp David accords and 17 May agreement, and praises Al-Asad's leadership in leading this Arab struggle.

At 1954 GMT, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, announces that the congress is adjourned. The live relay ends immediately afterward.

Papers Comment on Congress

JN050844 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Press review]

[Excerpts] *AL-BA'TH* comments on the Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress saying that our party is the Arabs' guide amid confusing directions. It says the work of the Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress will begin in Damascus today. With this congress, we recall the great nationalist and pan-Arab assets that Ba'th followers have accumulated over long years of struggle before and after the revolution, particularly recently during the years of the corrective movement.

We say that these great assets that the Ba'th followers have achieved through sweat, blood, and dedication are the ones that has made Syria, today, the leading force in the Arab national liberation movement and has specified the directions of Arab social progress. It has also made Syria the major Arab confrontation force in the face of U.S. imperialism and the Zionist racist entity in Palestine.

AL-BA'TH adds: Our party, which leads the state and the society, should lead the process of increasing Syria's power, capabilities, energies, and resources that Arab leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad described as the bases we rely upon in all our battles against imperialism and Zionism. Ba'th followers should be leaders and examples in the battle of increasing Syria's own power and in fighting the negative aspects and overcoming them in all fields. They also should, firmly and decisively, defend all the great achievements that the Ba'th Party has accompalished for the masses.

AL-THAWRAH comments on bolstering the Syrian internal front saying: One of the important issues currently being raised is that of bolstering the internal front in Syria so that this front will fully perform its tasks so as to support the great pan-Arab stand that this country adopts. Events proved that the more consolidated our internal front was, the firmer our external stand became.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Al-Asad has specified the future of our development within the framework of progress and socialism. Therefore, it is our duty to clear the path of progress and socialism from pitfalls and traps, as well as from the backward traditions that aim at aborting any move on this path.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Our toiling masses are attracted with their minds and hearts to the Ba'th congress. They are absolutely confident that this congress will allow bolstering the Ba'th revolution, consolidating the material foundation of socialism in this country, and fulfilling the ambitions of our masses to live a prosperous life and a bright future.

Al-Asad Confers With George Habash

JN061548 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — On the sidelines of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party eighth regional congress, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general and head of the Front's delegation to the congress, this afternoon. The talks revolved around the situation in the region, developments in the Palestinian arena, and the need to confront the capitulatory and divisive course.

Al-Asad Sends Message to Turkish President

JN041353 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Farug al-Shar' today received Turkish Ambassador Orhan Aka and handed him a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Turkish President Kenan Evren dealing with bilateral relations.

Further Reportage on Airlift of Ethiopian Jews

Belgian Airline Ends Participation

LD051937 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] A Boeing-707 belonging to a Belgian charter airline arrived in Israel this afternoon. This is reported by our correspondent Tamar Morag. Our correspondent in Paris, Yo'av Tocker, reports that a spokesman for the airline, which carried out the airlift, told him the company had flown its last flight as part of this operation. The spokesman told our correspondent in Paris that the charter company has thus fulfilled its business commitment in carrying out this operation. Asked whether the company anticipates a resumption of the flights, the spokesman said he had no knowledge of this. The Belgian airline made 35 flights, transporting 7,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Our correspondent Tamar Morag reports that a senior Jewish Agency official today expressed his opinion that the news conference held by the Government Press Office last week, at which the secret airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel was officially confirmed, was apparently the reason why the Belgian charter company announced it was stopping the flights.

Figures on Ethiopian Jews

LD060732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] At the outset of the rescue operation of the Ethiopian Jews it was known that their number totalled approximately 23,000. Some 4,000 had immigrated to Israel previously, another 6,000 to 7,000 arrived in Israel during the operation and the number of Jews still left in Ethiopia is approximately 8,000.

Airlift Confirmed Stopped

LD060855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0846 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Reports published abroad have now been confirmed in Israel as well. The Jewish Agency spokesman confirms that the airlift which brought Ethiopian Jews to Israel has stopped. The spokesman, Uzzi Eval, said that no flight is expected to arrive in Israel today. He said that the airlift has probably been stopped because of the wide publicity given to the affair. So far, this has only been published abroad.

No-Confidence Motions Planned

LD061245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1244 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] Shulamit Aloni and Yossi Sarid [Citizens' Rights Movement] are submitting a motion of no-confidence in the government. Prior to that, the Tehiya faction had announced that it would propose a motion of no-confidence. According to Sarid and Aloni, they investigated the situation and found that it was the prime minister's office that had initiated the publicity about the immigration of Ethiopian Jews. The person responsible, they say, must account for his actions. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami comments that this refers to Yisra'el Peleg, the director of the Government Press Office, who convened a news conference on Thursday about the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews. The prime minister's office has told our correspondent that it cannot discuss the details of the affair and so it is not making any comment.

Government Responsibility Denied

LD061614 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Official circles in Jerusalem have rejected the Jewish Agency's accusations that it was government publicity that damaged the operation to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel. According to the sources, the news conference convened on Thursday by the Government Press Office was held with the approval and participation of the Jewish Agency and with the agreement of all the elements dealing with the operation. A senior government source explained that the news conference was intended to emphasize the matter of the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews in Israel at the expense of other aspects of the operation. Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports.

[Begin recording] The public celebrations around the immigration of the Ethiopian Jews to Israel ended quickly and the question now being raised is why did the information, which was banned from publication for so many months, burst into the media in Israel and abroad; who said what, when, and why? In this context, exchanges of accusations are being heard between the Jewish Agency and elements inside the government. The Jewish Agency claims that the news conference held by the Government Press Office on Thursday was what gave the official seal of approval to the reports that had, up to then, appeared only abroad, and this was what caused the damage.

On the government's side, people are saying that the director of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department, Yehuda Dominitz, in an interview he gave to the *NEQUDA JOURNAL*, opened the crack through which all the reports penetrated and, prior to this, people in the government claim, it was the Jewish Agency heads who, in an incautious campaign to collect money in the United States, led to the initial reports on the matter.

Today's official sources said that the main damage was apparently caused by various publications abroad, not in Israel, publications which linked the Moses Campaign [Mivtza Moshe — name for the rescue operation], Sudan, and the Belgian airline. According to these sources, the Government Press Office's news conference was given the approval of all the appropriate elements who had dealt with the affair, including the Jewish Agency, and Jewish Agency member 'Aqiva Levinsky even took part in it.

A senior government source explained today that the news conference was held on Thursday afternoon after the world press, and in its wake the Israeli press, had already published many details about the affair, and it was clear that it was impossible to stop the information from getting out. The senior source said that the news conference had been aimed at emphasizing the matter of the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews in Israel more than other

aspects of the operation. So much for the explanations and excuses.

Today the Cabinet held a discussion on this affair. The discussion was held within the framework of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs and its details cannot be released. Cabinet Secretary Yosi Beilin has reacted to the claim of elements from the Ethiopian Jewish community, that there had been a plot between the government and the Jewish Agency, by saying: That is absolute nonsense.

This afternoon government circles advised not dealing with the affair too much, for the benefit of the actual matter, and today Minister Yitzhaq Peretz recalled, in this context, the words by King Solomon, the wisest of men: Life and death are ruled by the tongue. [end recording]

Absorption Minister on Airlift

LA061730 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Interview with Immigration Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur by 'Ido Tal at Ben-Gurion Airport upon the former's return from the United States "this afternoon" recorded]

[Text] [Tal] Mr Immigration Absorption Minister, harsh criticism has been levelled by public figures, Knesset members, and ministers about the timing of the publicity the Government Press Office gave the Moses Campaign [of airlifting the Ethiopian Jews to Israel]. Was the instruction for last week's news conference issued by the Immigration Absorption Ministry?

[Tzur] God forbid. I was not a party to anything that took place in Israel last week. I have participated in the efforts made in recent months to prevent the media from learning of the affair to rescue the Ethiopian Jews. I had also obtained good cooperation from the Israeli press and media aware of what was taking place. We gave absolute priority to the rescue of the Jews over any publicity which could jeopardize the affair. I have just arrived. I do not know exactly what is taking place. I can only say that I hope that those who have not arrived here will still come. I hope the publicity will not cause the damage we feared it would.

[Tal] It was publicized today that the operation was indeed stopped due to the publicity. What is your reaction to this?

[Tzur] If this is indeed correct, I am very sorry and very apprehensive about this. I will study the matter and get precise reports about what is taking place from the people dealing with this.

[Tal] What was the reaction in the United States to the official publicity given the matter? Is there a chance that the economic aid we are receiving for this operation will be affected?

[Tzur] First, the operation to rescue the Ethiopian Jews has had an immeasurably strong impact on both Jewish and non-Jewish public opinion, since it is made up of all the following elements: It is a rescue operation; it is Jews who are being rescued; and they are being transported from a distant and strange country. The communications media has dealt with it extensively, the Jewish community has been strongly affected by this issue, and attempts are being made to raise funds. The U.S. Government has given the Jewish organizations aid which will make it easy to absorb the Ethiopian Jews in Israel. I do not see a connection between the two things. On the one hand, we should, of course, see that the rescue operation continues; on the other hand, we should continue the absorption operation which was not affected at all this week. The only change that occurred this week, after all, was that the matter was made public. We have handled the affair all through the recent months.

[Tal] On this very issue, do we have the infrastructure necessary to absorb the new comers? Is there a comprehensive plan to facilitate their adjustment to life here?

[Tzur] There is a plan. However, it is almost impossible to make long-term preparations, since this refers, first and foremost, to physical matters, to housing, for example, and a country cannot keep such things in stock. Nevertheless, preparations have been made in recent months. A supreme coordinating committee, headed by the Immigration Absorption Ministry, was approved a few months ago by the government and the Jewish Agency. Two supreme coordinating committees of the government ministries and the Jewish Agency, headed by the Immigration Ministry, were set up — one deals with the physical aspects, especially housing; the other is to determine policy and ways to coordinate all other spheres, such as education, health, employment, and religion. I hope this operation will continue. When this matter was not publicized, of course, attention could be dedicated solely to it. This is negative to some extent, but the main danger inherent in the disclosure is undoubtedly the question of the continuation of the rescue operation.

Jewish Agency Rejects Charges

LA062115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] The head of the Jewish Agency, Arye Dulzin, said in London this evening that he hopes the operation to rescue all the Ethiopian Jews will be carried out successfully. In a talk with our correspondent Mikh'ael Elnaz, Arye Dulzin firmly rejected the accusation that it is the Israeli Government and the Jewish Agency which conspired to put an end to the immigration of the Ethiopian Jews. These are unfounded charges which have emanated from small groups in the past and are totally baseless today, as well.

He announced that $125 million has been allocated in the Jewish Agency's budget for next year for the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews. The sum of $30 million has been allocated for the rehabilitation of poor neighborhoods.

Peres on Rescue of Jews

LA070943 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister has declared that Israel will not stand idly by and will not rest until all the Ethiopian Jews arrive in

Israel. Israel will overcome all the hurdles and will be prepared to pay the required price, he noted. Shim'on Peres was speaking at the Davis Institute for International Relations of Hebrew University.

Likud Urges Inquiry

LA070934 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction executive has called on the prime minister to appoint a state commission of inquiry to identify those responsible for the reports on the immigration of Ethiopian Jews. The Likud executive has stated that the reports jeopardized the completion of the operation and has called for personal conclusions to be drawn regarding those responsible for this blunder.

Al-Naqurah Military Talks With Lebanon Resume

Aime to Meet Kimche

LA060524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Assistant UN secretary Jean-Claude Aime will hold a meeting today with the Foreign Ministry director general on the resumption of the Al-Naqurah talks tomorrow. Political sources in Jerusalem told our reporter Shim'on Schiffer that from the answers Aime brings with him from Beirut, it will probably appear that the Lebanese will enable the talks to continue between the countries, even if the answers are not complete and do not satisfy Israel.

U.S. 'Breaking Away'

LA061054 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Jan 85 p 2

["Exclusive" report from the United States by Amir Oren]

[Text] Washington — Following the failure of Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's trip in the region last month, the Reagan administration is moving towards breaking away from the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations and is beginning to come to terms with a unilateral Israeli withdrawal. This is the assessment of Israeli sources in Washington.

Murphy, who is not planning another visit to the region, would rather have attention focused on mediation efforts by UN Under Secretary General for Political Affairs Brian Urquhart and Assistant Deputy of the UN Secretariat Jean-Claude Aime.

In spite of recent attempts by the Near Eastern Affairs Desk at the State Department, headed by Murphy, to convince the Israelis that in the absence of a more promising plan of action, Israel should proceed with the direct negotiations at Al-Naqurah, the administration has now come to terms with the hopelessness of these negotiations and with the attempts to soften Syria's stand.

In contrast to the Israeli withdrawal from the Al-Shuf in the summer of 1983, U.S. military and diplomatic interests would not be affected as a result of an additional unilateral withdrawal by Israel.

Rabin Reports on Talks

LA061750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] A meeting was convened at the prime minister's office this evening to prepare for the resumption of the Al-Naqurah talks tomorrow. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is reporting on the continuation of the talks and the various plans for deployment in Lebanon, including the implications of any possible deployment line. Defense Minister Rabin examined the lines in Lebanon during the past week and now, on the eve of the resumption of the Al-Naqurah talks, he is presenting the various plans to the prime minister. A comprehensive Cabinet discussion about the moves which Israel will adopt in the wake of the replies Lebanon will supply in Al-Naqurah has not taken place yet. Minister Arens told me that the comprehensive discussion will take place only after the Lebanese military delegation gives its answer regarding UNIFIL's deployment.

As we have already reported, Minister Rabin supports a phased withdrawal from southern Lebanon if, of course, it transpires that it is pointless to continue the talks with Lebanon. In each stage of the withdrawal, Rabin believes, we should seek to obtain the cooperation of a local element. Rabin believes that time is against Israel in southern Lebanon, at least regarding everything which pertains to relations with the Shi'ites. In any case, the talks will resume tomorrow and it is expected that tomorrow's meeting will not be the last.

Lebanese officers at the talks told us earlier that when the talks resumed after the holidays, they would arrive in Al-Naqurah via the coastal road which would surely be open to traffic by then. Well, the road is still closed and tomorrow as well the Lebanese delegation will arrive at Al-Naqurah by UN helicopters.

It was learned this evening that Lebanese President al-Jumayyil said that Lebanon wants Israel to present a withdrawal timetable. In addition, the Syrians do not want Israel to score achievements in the Al-Naqurah talks. Lebanon is therefore expected to reject all the Israeli demands tomorrow.

Talks Expected To Continue

LA070544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The Al-Naqurah talks resume this morning following a 2-week recess. Lebanon is expected to reject Israel's demand to deploy UNIFIL south of the Al-'Awwali River. At the same time, it is believed that Lebanon will present its positions in such a way as not to cause a collapse of the talks and that consequently, this morning's session will not be the last one. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

This morning, people in the defense establishment say that everything is up to Beirut, although they know that everything is actually up to Damascus, which has already given its answer. Syria has told Lebanon to leave little maneuvering room to its delegation, to reject Israel's demand to deploy UNIFIL south of the Al-'Awwali River, to reject the army of southern Lebanon, and above all to demand a timetable for an IDF withdrawal. These are the instructions issued by Damascus and this is probably what the Israeli representatives to the negotiations will hear when the session convenes within approximately 3 hours.

The Israeli delegation members conferred with the defense minister and prime minister last night and drew positions and alternate positions. Contrary to the Lebanese delegation — which has been compared by someone to a group of airmail workers who transfer messages from Beirut to Al-Naqurah by helicopter — the Israeli delegation includes several officers who have been given powers and maneuvering room and who are prepared to conduct real negotiations.

Despite the hardening of the Syrian position, the Lebanese delegation will probably present its stand this morning in such a way as not to bring about a collapse of the talks. The Lebanese want to gain time, at least until the UN under secretary general or his aide arrive in the area with some kind of proposals.

Nonetheless, another meeting or two will change nothing. Defense Minister Rabin is determined that if a real change does not occur, there is no sense in going ahead with the talks. In the event that the Lebanese replies this morning are negative, as is anticipated, the Cabinet will meet to discuss the new situation and decide whether to drag the members of the Israeli delegation back and forth to Al-Naqurah.

To sum up, Lebanon is expected to submit negative replies this morning. Nevertheless, Israel will not close the door on the talks.

Breakdown Not Expected

LA070847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0830 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The military talks between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations are about to resume at Al-Naqurah. Let us go over to our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

[Tal] The Israeli delegation is this morning awaiting the replies of the Lebanese delegation which is supposed to present the position of the Lebanese Government regarding the Israeli demand to station UNIFIL south of the Al-Awwali River as a buffer between the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] and the Syrians. Although there is hardly a chance that the Lebanese delegation may present positive replies, and despite the fact that the entire session may last only 1 hour, the talks are not expected to break down today. This is what the head of the Israeli delegation, Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, told us.

[Begin recording] [Gilbo'a] I do not know whether this will or will not be the last session. It depends first on the Lebanese, and second on the decisions of the Israeli Government in the wake of the Lebanese replies.

[Tal] Reports arriving here from Damascus and Beirut say that all the Israeli positions — including the stationing of UNIFIL and the ASL — will be categorically rejected, and that the Syrian President issued specific instructions on the issue. Do you see any chance emerging from the talks today?

[Gilbo'a] Why should we prophesy and be proven wrong in an hour? Let us wait patiently and see. In any event, I believe that the Lebanese will not come with a totally positive reply to our demand in the last session. [end recording]

Communique on Talks Resumption

LA070929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0919 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Upon the resumption of the Al-Naqurah talks a short time ago, the Israeli delegation to the talks issued a communique expressing the hope that during the recess, the Lebanese had time to revise their views regarding the security arrangements with a view to enabling an IDF pullout. The communique adds that the Israeli delegation returns to the talks convinced that the appropriate arrangements to be effected in southern Lebanon will benefit both sides. Israel is convinced that an expanded UNIFIL deployment, particularly in the northern part of the area south of the Al-Awwali River, will play an important role in guaranteeing peace on both sides of the border.

Gilbo'a Issues Statement

LA071330 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1315 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal from Al-Naqurah — live]

[Text] The head of the Israeli delegation to the Al-Naqurah talks, Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, left the meeting a short while ago and told journalists: "To our regret and disappointment, the announcement by the Lebanese delegation given us this morning evaded giving a clear answer to the points to which Israel required replies. I am afraid that the Lebanese announcement cannot answer the security arrangements which Israel wants to achieve to guarantee the security of northern Israel. I am taking note of the fact that the Lebanese delegation is still interested in the continuation of the talks though. I will pass on the Lebanese announcement to the appropriate Israeli authorities for scrutiny and examination. Our official answer will be passed on to the Lebanese delegation in due course."

Peres, Rabin Favor IDF Redeployment North of Al-Litani

LA071000 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Jan 85 pp 1, 11

[Report by Yosef Walter, Refa'el Mann, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin favor deployment along a new line in Lebanon as the first stage in a phased IDF withdrawal, if no progress is made in the Al-Naqurah talks. The defense minister conferred with Prime Minister Peres last night and presented him with the

various possibilities for an IDF redeployment in Lebanon. These plans have been formulated in the last few weeks by the General Staff. Rabin had been touring Lebanon last week and closely examining the various possible deployments.

The main option available to Israel is to withdraw to a new line north of the Al-Litani River. That line would begin at Tyre, include the Al-Nabatiyah Plateau, and would end at Hasbayya.

Weizman Given More Authority on Relations With Egypt

TA061209 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Jan 85 p 6

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has agreed to give Minister 'Ezer Weizman additional authority to deal with the negotiations with Egypt. The two reached an understanding on this during a meeting last Thursday.

'Ezer Weizman claimed at that meeting that the government in general, and Shim'on Peres in particular, are not doing enough to further the peace process with Egypt, and it was decided that Weizman would be more involved in procedures on this subject.

One possibility, among others, was that Minister Weizman would soon go to Cairo for contacts with President Mubarak on ways to solve the Taba dispute and on the normalization of relations between the two countries.

A senior political source told *DAVAR* that Peres has in fact appointed 'Ezer Weizman in charge of contacts with Egypt which are held through Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, and other covert channels.

Talks With Egypt To Resume in Beersheba Next Week

TA071155 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1150 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The negotiations between Israel and Egypt regarding the stationing of a multinational force [in Taba] will apparently begin next week in Beersheba. This was disclosed by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in an address to a meeting of the Union of Spokesmen. Peres said that one should not expect immediate results from the meeting, but that this certainly represented a resumption of the dialogue between the two countries. Peres added that he was favorably surprised by the remarks made by President Mubarak when he flattered him in an interview on U.S. television last week.

Reportage on Bank Shares Inquiry Commission

4 Ministers Against Inquiry

TA061437 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1423 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] At today's Cabinet session, four ministers objected to the decision to establish an inquiry commission about the bank shares crisis. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that 16 ministers voted in favor, 4 ministers — Yitzhaq Rabin, Gid'on Pat, Avraham Sharir, and Moshe Arens — voted against.

At the session, Minister Rabin said that everything that had to be investigated had already been investigated by the State Comptroller, and any additional dealings over the affair would harm the banking system which is, in any case, in a delicate situation.

Minister Pat said the Cabinet was guided in its decision by a chase after a sudden panic, as he phrased it, that had spread through the public. Any additional investigation would jeopardize the credit lines to Israel and damage hundreds of thousands of investers who had deposited money in banks in Israel and abroad.

More on Cabinet Decision

TA061756 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Cabinet decided today that a national inquiry commission should be set up to look into the bank shares crisis. This decision was made by a majority vote. A special committee will coordinate this matter with the Knesset Public Audit Committee. Our economic affairs correspondent Ze'ev Hasper reports:

[Begin recording] The Cabinet's discussion of the bank shares affair lasted less than an hour; it was finally decided to adopt the prime minister's proposal whereby an inquiry commission would be established according to the law on inquiry commissions. The 5-minister committee headed by Peres is authorized to make decisions on the issue. The two problems which have remained unresolved and which require legal clarifications and coordination with the Knesset are: Who will appoint the committee — the Government or the Knesset Public Audit Committee — and what will be the inquiry commission's terms of reference.

Government sources told us that there is understanding among government ministers that the powers of the commission will be as wide as possible. In the rather open competition between the government and the Knesset over primacy on this issue, a legal reason was raised in the Cabinet meeting today, according to which only a government-initiated appointment according to the law on inquiry commissions would guarantee the commission wide powers, while appointment by the Knesset Public Audit Committee according to the state comptroller's law would restrict the commission's powers. [end recording]

Knesset Approves Commission

TA071102 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1045 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The Knesset Audit Committee has unanimously decided to establish a state commission of inquiry to look into the bank shares crash. The committee rejected the attorney general's position according to which the commission of inquiry should be set up by the government. Knesset Audit Committee Chairman David Liba'i will ask the president of the Supreme Court to set up the commission of inquiry.

Kahane Urges Mayor Frayj To Emigrate

LA060730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says he has received a letter from Knesset Member Meir Kahane urging him to emigrate. The letter reportedly arrived at the Bethlehem Municipality on Thursday. Jerry Cheslow reports.

[Begin recording][Cheslow] Mayor Ilyas Frayj says he is insulted and angered by the letter. Frayj stresses that his roots in Bethlehem stretch back at least 500 years and he has no intention of leaving. He finds it ironic that Meir Kahane is using his official powers as a Knesset member to send out such letters.

[Frayj] The letter was put in an envelope with the Knesset emblem and he posted it by the free post of the Knesset postage. But this is a very dangerous, provocative challenge from a crazy religious man.

[Cheslow] Frayj urges Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to do something about Kahane's actions. If not, he says, this could sour relations between Jews and Arabs. [end recording]

Egyptian Consulate To Close Over Kahane Demonstration

LA061057 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] "Approximately an hour after Rabbi Kahane and his activists complete their demonstration opposite my home, I will close the consulate and leave Elat. I will go to the embassy in Tel Aviv, and from there telephone the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to receive instructions."

This was said by the Egyptian consul in Elat, Hasan 'Isa, in an exclusive interview to *HA'ARETZ*, after he learned of Rabbi Kahane's intention to come and demonstrate opposite the Egyptian Consulate, which also serves as the consul's home.

The consul noted that he was angry that the Israeli police agreed to allow Rabbi Kahane to demonstrate opposite his home when another demonstration in the town had already been approved. The consul revealed for the first time that the Egyptian authorities are preventing Cairo residents from holding demonstrations opposite the Israeli Embassy in Cairo to protest against Israel's policies.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent notes that at first the consul had said he would leave the consulate for Cairo, but in deliberations he held with Egyptian officials it was decided that he would initially go to Tel Aviv.

Sharon To Return to U.S. for TIME Suit

Cabinet Approves Sharon Trip

LA061823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Today the Cabinet approved Ari'el Sharon's trip to the United States for the continuation of his case against *TIME* magazine. In an unconventional way, Minister Amnon Rubinstein demanded a vote, but the prime minister stopped this. Minister Sharon spent the court's Christmas recess in Israel.

Kahan Findings Support Sharon

LA070529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Justice Yitzhaq Kahan has informed a New York court that none of the documents or testimonies he read includes evidence or a suggestion that Minister Sharon had discussed the need to revenge the death of Bashir al-Jamayyil with the Al-Jumayyil family or the Phalangists. Justice Kahan has also said that there is no document or testimony about a talk in which Sharon or the Phalangists mentioned the need for such revenge. According to Justice Kahan, the documents and testimonies do not mention the possibility of a massacre of civilians if the Phalangists went into the refugee camps without an IDF escort.

Former Justice Minister Hayim Tzadoq, the attorney for *TIME* magazine, has reservations about the answers provided by Justice Kahan. According to a previous arrangement, the details of these reservations are not being published. Sources close to *TIME* this morning argued that the Israeli authorities had not fulfilled their promise to enable the attorneys for *TIME* to peruse the testimonies of former Chief of IDF Intelligence Yehoshu'a Sagi, his aide-de-camp, and that of a colonel in the Intelligence Corps.

Sharon Comments on Trial

LA070604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Report by Eli'ezer Pney-Gil on news conference by Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon at Ben-Gurion Airport on 7 January prior to his departure for the United States "a few minutes ago" — recorded]

[Text] [Pney-Gil] Minister Sharon did not directly refer to the replies provided by Justice Kahan [in connection with Sharon's libel suit against *TIME* magazine]. In a short communique to the press a few minutes ago, Sharon stated: "I am happy that, at the request of Justice Abraham Sofaer, the Cabinet decided to allow the perusal of the secret appendix to the Kahan Commission Report. I hope this will confirm my claim that the report published by *TIME* magazine is totally false. At the same time, it is regrettable that the Cabinet did not accede to my request regarding two other reports. Sharon ended by expressing the hope that he will win the suit. So much for his direct references to the trial.

Sharon was asked whether he would deal with matters pertaining

to his ministry during his stay in New York.

[Sharon] I have also done so during my previous stay. I hope my stay in New York will be very brief and I hope to come back to concentrate all my efforts on the economy. I did just that during the 2 weeks I spent here and I hope to return soon and continue with it.

[Pney-Gil] Does that mean that your current trip will be financed privately by you?

[Sharon] This trip, as well as the previous one, including the fares, is entirely financed by me. I am covering all the expenses of my previous trip and I will cover all the expenses of my current trip.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Minister, the Al-Naqurah talks resume this morning. What is your position on this? We would like just a brief comment.

[Sharon] We know the principles set forth by the Israeli Government — keeping a security zone 30 km wide, operating the army of southern Lebanon, Israeli liaison in the security zone. This is a condition for preventing the resumption of acts of terrorism against the northern part of the State of Israel. Other principles are that Israel should be able to follow various developments in the field, which would provide us with early warning about the resumption of terrorist operations, and the creation of a buffer zone manned by UNIFIL or other UN forces on the northern edge of the security zone, to prevent the Syrians from moving southward toward the Israeli border. These are the principles we should insist on.

LIBYA

Basic People's Congress Discusses 4 Britons Release

LD061104 Tripoli JANA in English 0933 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 15, January 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Basic People's Congress started yesterday afternoon their meetings, throughout Jamahiriyah, for their 3rd ordinary meeting for 1984. The first opening debate of the congresses was that concerning the release of the four Britons being detained in Jamahiriyah.

However, the leader of the revolution spoke on Friday evening to the masses of the Basic People's Congresses asking them to help him in the release of the four Britons being detained in Libya. He said: "I ask you to help me in the matter and release them as a favor to the detainees, a gesture of respect to the church and in response to pleas by brothers and friends regarding this case."

Daily Comments on Release Conditions

LD070555 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0015 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Brothers, here now is an *AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* editorial published in its issue of Monday, 7 January, under the title "The Road to the Era of the Masses." The paper is published by the revolutionary committees.

During their current session, the Basic People's Congresses, while noting the decisive and complete deliverance from the values of bourgeois and feudal society, have to deal with a most serious mission: implementing measures to block the attempts of reactionary and imperialist forces to bring the Arab Libyan people to their knees, force them to abandon the green revolutionary line, and liquidate their civilization's achievements and popular power.

Here we must mention the conspiratorial role played by the British Government, in collusion with the Reagan administration and with the latter's direct encouragement, against the sons of the Arab Libyan people studying in Britain: It is engaged in a witchhunt against them, cornering them, tightening the noose around them, and jailing some under various charges fabricated by the British intelligence service and the CIA.

The People's Congresses will undoubtedly adopt measures likely to put an end to these British provocations. He who has followed the debates of the preceding 2 days will notice that the People's Congresses are determined to adopt measures likely to halt British provocations.

Most People's Congresses have indicated through their debates that the Arab Libyan masses believe the release of the four Britons charged with involvement in security cases against the Jamahiriyah can be accomplished only through compliance with certain conditions, including:

1. The release of all Libyan students detained in Britain;
2. An end to the British information media's poisonous propaganda campaign against the Jamahiriyah;
3. A commitment by the British Government not to engage in provocations against Arab Libyan students in Britain; and
4. A commitment by the British Government not to offer shelter to terrorists hostile to the Arab Libyan people.

The Arab Libyan masses agree to the release of the four British detainees on the basis of the above-mentioned conditions given that they had been jailed for violating Libyan criminal laws; whereas, the British authorities had arrested the Libyans for merely having expressed their political opinions during the aggression against the Libyan People's Bureau in London.

While discussing and deciding all this in its People's Congresses currently in session, the Arab Libyan people work to complete the stage of revolutionary change, and to entrench the popular power and civilization's achievements. They also work to finally block the way of the reactionary and imperialist forces lying in wait ready to jump on the Jamahiriyah at the right time.

UK Press Campaign Scored

LD041624 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA) — A source in the Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Jamahiriyah has stressed that the biased campaign which is being implemented these days by the British newspapers against the Jamahiriyah and a series of false rumors, might not help the Basic People's Congresses in the Jamahiriyah in discussing the issue of Britons detained in Libya and their release.

Arab League's Klibi Received by Foreign Minister

LD061647 Tripoli JANA in English 1411 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 15, January 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau met yesterday evening with the secretary general of the League of Arab States, Chedli Klibi. The two sides exchanged points of view regarding several Arab issues. Chedli Klibi arrived yesterday evening in Tripoli on a visit to Jamahiriyah.

Airlift of Ethiopian Jews Discussed

LD061906 Tripoli JANA in English 1834 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 15, January 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau, Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, met today with the secretary general of the League of Arab States, Chadli Klibi. It has been disclosed that the meeting discussed the smuggling operation of the Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine by the Zionist enemy.

The secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau made the Libyan position clear to the League of Arab States secretary general and informed him that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will request an emergency

meeting of the League of Arab States to discuss the subject.

People's Bureau Summons Ethiopia's Ambassador

LD061913 Tripoli JANA in English 1838 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 15, January 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned today the Ethiopian ambassador in Tripoli and expressed to him Jamahiriyah's concern and anger at the migration of Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine and asked for clarifications from the Ethiopian Government regarding the matter.

The Ethiopian ambassador pointed out that since 1982, when northern areas of Ethiopia were not under the Ethiopian Government control, contacts were taking place between some American Zionists and the Sudanese Government, following the recognition of Falashas as Jews by the Zionists, to arrange for gathering Ethiopian Jews in southern Sudan in Al-Gadharif and Juba. Then centres of coordination were set up in Khartoum, Nairobi and Nicosia. The whole operation had been led by American Jews who came to Sudan under the cover of investment ventures.

The Ethiopian ambassador made clear that the migration operation had started some time ago through other countries and that the Ethiopian Government had held Sudan responsible for it.

The ambassador asserted that the operation had been carried out without the Ethiopian Government's knowledge. He said that the Ethiopian Government had evidence affirming the involvement of Numayri, personally, in the matter.

MAURITANIA

ICDCS Ministerial Council To Meet 14-17 Jan

AB070847 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] A delegation of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ICDCS], headed by the committee's executive secretary, Brah Mahamane, has been in Nouakchott for 2 days now.

The delegation will prepare for the ICDCS ministerial council meeting scheduled to take place in Nouakchott from 14 to 17 January 1985.

Upon his arrival in Nouakchott, the ICDCS secretary disclosed that the Sahel region continues to suffer from the drought, adding that the extraordinary council which met in Niamey on 13 November paid special attention to the situation in the region which experienced a grain deficit of 1.75 million tons this year.

According to him, this situation worsened because of capricious rains. Mr Mahamane expressed the hope that the Nouakchott meeting would constitute a starting point for a new stage in the fight against the drought in the Sahel.

In addition to the member countries, many donor countries and organizations are expected to attend the Nouakchott meeting.

MOROCCO

Saudi Crown Prince Received by King Hassan

LD051642 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received this afternoon in the royal palace in Marrakech His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

Prince Concludes Visit, Departs

LD061524 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, left Morocco this morning, after he was received yesterday in Marakkech by His Majesty King Hassan II.

SUDAN

'Text' of Foreign Ministry Statement on Ethiopian Jews

JN061222 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jan (SUNA) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday issued a statement on the Ethiopian allegations about transportation of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Following is an official translation of the statement: "News agencies and some broadcasting stations have of late been circulating Ethiopian allegations accusing Sudan of taking part in transporting Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to Israel, in this respect. The minister of foreign affairs would like to make the following facts clear:

First: Ethiopia has always been using Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) as a bargaining card with Israel for obtaining arms and money through the Israeli Amiral Trading Company which is operating in Ethiopia and it is a well known fact that Israel has been supplying Ethiopia with huge amounts of arms it has captured during its invasion of southern Lebanon. A considerable part of those arms, is channelled with the agreement of Israel and Ethiopia to the outlaws in southern Sudan. The Zionist-Ethiopian plotting against Sudan is not a new one but it dates back to the early days of the independence of Sudan. This plotting is aimed not only against Sudan's national unity but also against the Arab nation and the African Continent at large.

Second: Sudan has always served as a haven for Ethiopian and other refugees, including politicians, defecting servicemen and starving people irrespective of their race, color or religion, while they arrive in a state of exhaustion and fatigue. As the Sudan is not a prison for those refugees, thousands of them have left Sudan

for some European countries and elsewhere with the knowledge of the UNHCR [UN High Commission on Refugees]. Large numbers of them have also left for some Arab countries where they found job opportunities.

Third: Ethiopia is the only one responsible for its subjects and if anyone of them has found his way to Israel that has undoubtedly seen made in collusion between Ethiopia and Israel. This is confirmed by the fact that the Sudan has always called upon the cooperation in handling problems of those refugees and has received a positive response from all those countries except Ethiopia whose false and malicious allegations in its recent statement provide yet another evidence of its continued plotting against Sudan.

The Sudan has always been dealing with the question of refugees, whose majority has come from Ethiopia, on humanitarian grounds and in accordance with the international conventions. It has continued sharing its bread with them and providing them with shelter and care in spite of the extra burden incurred upon the Sudan.

Fourth: The Sudan need not reckon its unswerving positions and policies towards the Israeli enemy which is still occupying Palestine and other Arab territories.

Hence, any talk about an agreement between the Sudan and the Israeli enemy or any other foreign circles is unfounded and is classified in the context of the malicious conspiracies which are aimed against the Arab solidarity and against every sincere and serious effort to confront the Israeli enemy.

Foreign Minister Condemns Ethiopian Media Campaign

JN061454 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jan (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman has denounced the unjust propaganda campaign against Sudan that is aimed at harming Sudan's principled positions at a time when it opens its borders to provide shelter for refugees escaping from the disasters of war and the specter of famine and drought in Ethiopia. In a statement to SUNA, he said that the false allegations being spread by Ethiopia's propaganda organs are not strange because Ethiopia provides bases for training aimed at carrying out acts of sabotage against Sudan to undermine its independence and unity.

The Sudanese foreign minister added that what is being spread by the Ethiopian media about the transportation of Ethiopian Jews to the Zionist entity is aimed at creating mistrust between Sudan and the fraternal Arab countries and at weakening their unity and solidarity. The minister stressed that Sudan's principles position toward the State of Israel and toward all the inhuman practices is a firm one.

The Sudanese foreign minister expressed surprise because some Arab organizations and media are involved in the plots propagated by Ethiopia and hostile parties regarding the airlift of Ethiopian Jews — the operation which took place in collusion between Ethiopia and Israel and for which Ethiopia received military equipment and economic aid.

In his statement to SUNA, Hashim 'Uthman asserted that these unjust camapigns against Sudan will not affect its humanitarian stand on the issue of the refugees. Sudan will remain an oasis of security for these refugees despite the economic situation Sudan is facing.

Discusses Airlift With Arab Diplomats

JN061844 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 6 Jan (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman received heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Khartoum here today to brief them on Sudan's position on Ethiopian allegations and the systematic propaganda campaign by some media regarding Sudan's alleged role in facilitating the transportation of Ethiopian Falasha Jews to the Israeli enemy entity. The minister explained that this move is part of the continued Ethiopian conspiracy against Sudan to create differences between Sudan and the Arab countries, to portray Sudan as a source of Jews for Israel, and to cover its continued export of Jews to Israel [words indistinct]. The minister also pointed out that Sudan's firm and principled position and its Arab commitments since its independence cannot be doubted.

He also disclosed that Sudan has information confirming that the outlaws in southern Sudan are being armed and funded by the Israeli enemy and Ethiopia. He added that there are also reports that Ethiopian Jews are being transported to the Israeli port of Eilat from the Ethiopian port of Massawa with the knowledge of the Ethiopian Government.

Egypt's Al-Majid Thanks Khartoum for Support

JN051200 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1057 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jan (SUNA) — Hashim 'Uthman, minister of foreign affairs, received a message from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs, expressing his appreciation for the support he received during the meetings of the 15th Islamic states' foreign ministers conference recently held in Sanaa.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid also expressed his gratitude for Sudan's efforts to abort attempts by Iran and Syria to raise the issue of restoring Egypt's membership in the ICO. He also expressed gratitude for foiling attempts at condemning Egyptian policy at the political committee stemming from the conference during discussions on the Middle East issue. The message was delivered to the foreign minister by the Egyptian Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum Muhammad Mustafa Badru.

SPLA Radio Reports Further Defections From Army

EA041903 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] More than 100 members of organized forces in Bahr al-Ghazal administrative area have defected and joined the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces in the area. The defectors include senior officials of the Army, police, prisons, and game scouts.

It is to be recalled that more than 100 members of the organized forces defected from Bor, the capital of Jonglei administrative area and joined the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] about 5 weeks ago.

SPLA Claims Upper Nile Towns Attacked, Seized

E 1061752 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] We have received the following from Lieutenant Colonel William Nyuon Bany, commander of SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces in Central Upper Nile Operational Zone, member of the SPLA High Command, and member of the Executive Committee of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement].

SPLA forces of Battalion 104/105 under the command of Lt (Peter Bieli and Lt (Manyien Kowai), attacked and captured Wankai Garrison on 2 January 1985. In the attack 133 enemy soldiers were killed and an undetermined number wounded. The rest of the enemy soldiers fled into the surrounding forest, leaving SPLA forces in control of the town. SPLA forces withdrew for other missions after 3 hours.

Units of Battalion 104/105 commanded by Major John Kolong, attacked and occupied the district town of Tonga on 4 January 1985. In the course of the attack, the enemy soldiers stationed in Tonga were forced to flee into the (?safety) of Malakal town, the capital of Upper Nile Administrative Area. The SPLA forces are still in full control of the town.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives Incoming Libyan Envoy

LD041647 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Carthage, 4 Jan (TAP) — President Bourguiba has expressed satisfaction with the good relations existing between Tunisia and Libya and with fruitful Tunisian-Libyan cooperation when he received today the Libyan high representative to Tunis, 'Abdallah Ahmed Alharari, who presented his credentials during a ceremony organized in the White Hall of the Palace of the Republic in Carthage.

The Libyan diplomat on this occasion conveyed to the Great Combatant greetings and wishes of good health and happiness from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution.

The ceremony took place in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid Essebsi and the ambassador and director general of protocol, Abdelmajid Karoui.

ETHIOPIA

Foreign Ministry Protests Airlift of Citizens

EA051521 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today strongly protested against the Sudanese Government's interference and complicity with other foreign powers in arranging transport to take Ethiopian citizens from their country of birth to Israel and other countries.

In a statement on the issue, the Foreign Ministry pointed out that, due in particular to the ugly problem in the northern regions of Ethiopia, our compatriots were going to Sudan, adding that anti-Ethiopian and counterrevolutionary groups had also for a long time been constantly forcing people to enter Sudan illegally. The statement pointed out that these citizens had lived for many centuries side by side with their Ethiopian brothers without any racial friction. In its statement, the Foreign Ministry strongly called on all the countries, particularly Sudan, that were collaborating in this act of interference in internal affairs to desist from such illegal action and covert malice.

SOMALIA

DFSS Launches 'Major Attack' in Mudugh Region

EA052013 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Units of the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces, made a major attack on (Bandiradley) town of the Mudugh region on 31 December 1984, killing 18 and wounding 28 soldiers of the loyalist troops of the Mogadishu dictatorial regime. The report adds that the enemy troops lost a very large quantity of ammunition and other military hardware was destroyed. It says the (Bandiradley) police station and radio communications unit were also completely destroyed.

The gallant DFSS fighters who made the attack returned safely to base.

GABON

Bongo Clarifies Conditions of Dialogue

AB041458 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] President Omar Bongo of Gabon yesterday in Libreville received the new year wishes of members of the government, the Political Bureau of the party, constituted bodies, and members of the diplomatic corps. In short, he received the wishes of all the political and social bodies in the country.

On this occasion, the Gabonese head of state once more stressed the need for a permanent dialogue in order to consolidate African unity. Here is Omar Bongo:

[Begin recording] What is very important for us in Gabon is national unity. It is the cohesion, the understanding, and the love that we should have for one another. Recently there were a series of measures aimed at releasing some misguided brothers. But I would like to take this opportunity to make some clarifications, because some people were made to believe somthing different from my new year eve message, in which I said that there should be a permanent dialogue within the party, and that I called on all Gabonese, both in and outside Gabon, to a dialogue. This does not mean — and, as I always say, it is not enough to hear what I say, but it is more important to understand what I say to avoid any confusion — that I have called upon anybody to come and hold a dialogue with me. I said, among other things, that among the leaders of the party there was an open and permanent dialogue. It is only within the party that we should maintain this dialogue.

Then we also talked about the new diplomacy that Gabon should envisage for the years ahead. This is also the responsibility of the party and the government. [end recording]

ZAIRE

Mobutu Attacks 'Intrigues', 'Cliques' in Regime

AB060734 Paris AFP in English 0713 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Kinshasa, Jan 6 (AFP) — Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko Saturday attacked "intrigues" and "cliques" inside his regime, in the wake of last week's shakeup of top diplomats and provincial governors. Interference by officials in the responsibilities of others led to "disorder and irresponsibility," he warned senior state and ruling party figures assembled here to present new year greetings to him. Calling for "coherent action" in government, he said those who speculated about cabinet reshuffles were "wasting their time." He said he foresaw a "bitter struggle" between backers of what he called his "new policy of development" and those who opposed it.

British Newsmen Reportedly Arrested Over Report

AB061216 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, Jan 6 (AFP) — The Zairean correspondents of the British Broadcasting Corporation and REUTERS NEWS AGENCY were arrested here last week, a reliable source said today. The source said the two, Bossongo Boyeme of the BBC and Kin-Kiey Mulumba of REUTERS, were being questioned over a report last Wednesday of the dismissal of Zaire's ambassadors at the United Nations and in Brussels.

Officially the ambassadors were sacked, along with three provincial governors, because their office was incompatible with their membership of the Central Committee of the ruling People's Revolutionary Movement. A fourth sacked governor, of Shaba Province, did not fit into this category, but Shaba was the scene of insurrection by anti-government rebels at the end of last year.

A REUTERS report said that the Brussels ambassador, Tshibwabwa Ashila Pashi, had been dismissed after he complained of the behavior of certain senior officials in the Foreign Ministry. However, an authoritative source here said that Mr Tshibwabwa had denied making such a complaint.

UMOA Recommends Continuing Adjustment Policies

AB041722 Paris AFP in French 1247 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Dakar, 4 Jan (AFP) — The Ministerial Council of the West African Monetary Union [UMOA], which met in Dakar, has decided to continue in 1985 the adjustment measures adopted by the member states of the union (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo).

According to a communique submitted to the press, this decision was made because of "the continuing persisting unfavorable outlook of the world climate," which dominates the economic and monetary situation in spite of progress made by the union's member states.

The Ministerial Council also adopted the accounting records on the merger of balance sheets of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO, issuing bank of the UMOA) and the former Central Bank of Mali (which has become an agency of the BCEAO after Mali's admission into the UMOA last July.)

The BCEAO's board of directors, which also met in Dakar, has decided to suspend for 2 years the obligation of the payment of sight deposits by banks "in order to help them overcome the crises caused by the difficult world situation."

[Words indistinct] post of deputy governor, Boubacar Amadou Hama, former minister of commerce of Burkina Faso, to replace Alassane Ouatara, who has been appointed director of the Africa Department at the International Monetary Fund.

BURKINA

Presidency Staff To Report for 'Important Information'

AB060737 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] All the staff of the Presidency of the Faso are urgently requested to report at the General Secretariat of the government at 1100 today, Sunday, 6 January, for important information. The fatherland or death, we will win!

Ex-Politicians J. Ouedraogo, J. Kafando Released

AB061301 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Ouagadougou, Jan 6 (AFP) — A former leading politician in Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Joseph Ouedraogo, was released from house arrest last week, an official source said here Saturday.

Also freed on January 3 was Jean-Baptiste Kafando, a magistrate and elder brother of former Foreign Minister Michel Kafando, the source said. Both were arrested in November 1983 for reasons which were never officially given. Government sources said they were accused of "subversive actions" and "attempting to recruit mercenaries" to overthrow Captain Thomas Sankara, who had taken power the previous August.

The official source said last night that Mr Ouedraogo, a former chairman of the National Assembly and mayor of Ouagadougou, owed his release to his part in the overthrow of President Maurice Yameogo on January 3, 1966. That date is considered of revolutionary significance by Capt Sankara's left-wing government, which declared January 3 a public holiday.

Mr Ouedraogo was prominent in the Second Republic from 1971 to 1974, but his political feud with his namesake Gerard Kango Ouedraogo led to the Army taking power for the second time since independence. Mr Ouedraogo, 66, who served as finance and later interior minister, was the last of the country's leaders during the early years of independence to be held without trial by the Sankara government.

Mr Yameogo and former Prime Minister Issofou Joseph Conombo were freed last August on the first anniversary of Capt Sankara's coup, while Gerard Kango Ouedraogo, also a former prime minister, was jailed for four years by a people's tribunal last June. Mr Kafando's brother Michel, foreign minister under Capt Sankara's predecessor, Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, fled the country in the wake of the 1983 coup. He has since been branded by the current regime as one of the most resolute opponents of the revolution.

Free-Rent Measure Supported at Ouagadougou Rally

AB042204 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The militants of the People's Democratic Revolution from the Kadiogo Province this afternoon organized an imposing support march followed by a rally at Revolution Square in Ouagadougou. This was to express their unflinching support for the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and for its chairman, following the measure announced by the comrade head of state of the Faso last 31 December concerning free rent for 1985. Various motions, recommendations, and statements were read on the occasion by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] from services, secondary schools, various areas in Ouagadougou, as well as by the CDR of the Ouagadougou garrison.

However, the highlight of this rally was the speech made by Comrade Captain Pierre Ouedraogo, the CDR national general secretary, who presented the wishes of all the CDR militants to the comrade president of the Faso, who was present at Revolution Square. He strongly dismissed the allegations of the enemies of the revolution. He cut the ground from under the feet of all those who claimed that the measure was antisocial as he announced that the CDR will solve any social problem that may result from this ordinance on free rent. Thus, widows, orphans, and the retired who were concerned about their future need not worry. This is why the CNR has appointed Lieutenant Diendéré Traoré to find radical and popular solutions to the housing problems in our country.

GHANA

PNDC Pardons 3 Sentenced in Absentia by AFRC

AB041954 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Three persons sentenced in absentia by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council [AFRC] have been granted pardon by the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] on the recommendations of the Special Subcommittee on AFRC Affairs. They are Yaw Ofori, formerly managing director of the Ghana Cargo Handling Company [GCHC]; Alhaji S.N. Sibido, former general secretary of the Ghana Muslims Representative Council; and Madam Akosua Addae, popularly called Adom wo Wim.

Preliminary 1984 Census Report Released

AB041450 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The preliminary report of Ghana's 1984 population census was released in Accra today by the undersecretary for information, Mr Totobi Kwakye. The census was held in March. According to the report, Ghana's population is 12,205,574. Mr Kwakye explained that the government decided to conduct the census in its determination to resuscitate the economy in line with the economic recovery program. He said the preliminary report is the third of its kind in the history of censuses in Ghana and most parts of the world and should be valuable to the planning units of the ministries and quasi-government establishments.

Mr Kwakye asked economic journalists and analysts to study the data and give meaningful interpretation to them. It should explain the factors influencing the movements of population between different areas, trends and growth rates, the sex ratio, and urbanization. The undersecretary hoped the central bureau of statistics would also initiate a serious study of labor productivity in the country. This is because increased productivity is important for the growth of Ghana's industry.

A government's statistician, Dr Oti Boateng, who presented the report, said there are 6,211,000 females in the country as against 5,995,000 males [figures as heard]. And out of the total population, 68.7 percent live in the rural areas and the remaining 31.3 percent in the urban centers. According to Dr Oti Boateng, his office has recorded all the problems encountered during the census to serve as a guide to future exercises.

EEC Supplements Financial Aid for Palm Oil Project

AB042007 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The EEC has approved a supplementary financing of about 180 million cedis for the Twifo Oil Palm Plantation in the Central Region. The money will be spent on fertilizer and chemicals, machinery, spare parts, and the construction of staff quarters.

According to the EEC commission in Accra, an oil mill is to be constructed as part of the development of the oil palm estate to process fresh fruits produced from the plantation. The foreign exchange cost of about 464 million cedis will be jointly financed by the Commonwealth Development Corporation and the Netherlands Government. The local cost will be born by Ghana. The commission hopes the planting of the entire 4,800 hectares will be completed by the end of next year. This will increase the production of palm oil from 2,450 tons in 1987 to 11,700 tons in 1994.

The EEC has already committed about 279 million cedis to the development of the estate and to the financing of technical assistance components of the projects. It is being carried out by experts from the Commonwealth Development Corporation with local costs being covered by the Ghana Government.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Vieira Announces Wage Hike in New Year Message

AB021000 Paris AFP in French 0903 GMT 1 Jan 85

[Text] Bissau, 1 Jan (AFP) — An increase in the salaries of civil servants from 20 to 35 percent beginning in January was announced by the head of state, General Joao Bernardo Vieira, on Monday in his new year's message to the nation. General Vieira also said that the purchase prices of produce from agricultural producers will also be raised about 60 percent beginning in January. Civil service salaries had already been increased 40 percent in 1984, as had purchase prices of produce from agricultural producers. President Vieira also announced that his government will work on reducing the number of civil service employees during 1985.

In a retrospective of 1984, the head of state expressed his satisfaction over the noticeable decrease in the budget deficit thanks to the reduction in public expenses, the reform in the commercial sector, and the devaluation of the peso, the national currency. Finally, General Vieira called for national unity in order to fight the "corruption, laxity, laziness, underhanded dealings, disorganization, and dishonesty from which the country suffers."

IVORY COAST

NAN on Antigovernment Tracts, Party Response

AB281210 Lagos NAN in English 1135 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Dispatch by Samuel Ajibola, NAN correspondent in Abidjan: "Anonymous Tracts Flood Ivory Coast"]

[Text] Running taps, working telephones and reliable lifts are all certainties of day-to-day living in the Ivory Coast. But residents are now worried about one thing: the country's uncertain political future already made even more unpredictable by anonymous tracts which recently circulated in Abidjan, the capital. The absence of a vice-president or a known favourite to succeed 78-year old President Felix Houphouet-Boigny is a widely-known

fact, but the almost palpable unease arising from this has been considerably heightened by the pamphlets. Houphouet himself was away in France and Switzerland when the tracts were put into circulation by its underground authors, but his lieutenants in the ruling (and only) Parti Democratique de la Cote d'Ivoire (PDCI) ably stood up to the challenge. Senior party members quickly met, and in a lightning move, sent missions to all parts of the country to counter the "slanderous lies" contained in the leaflets, and "sensitize" the population about the danger to peace and stability posed by the pamphleteers. And for the first time in years, they gave a detailed account of the stewardship of the party, which has dominated the political life of the country for the past 24 years.

According to the tracts, the 24 years since independence have been "24 years of disaster...personal dictatorship, social abuse, injustice and the deliberate keeping of the Ivorian people in the most abject ignorance." They claimed that the ailing Ivorian economy was a victim of two major malpractices: illegal deals during the establishment of the country's numerous sugar estates which put "millions" in the pockets of highly-placed corrupt officials, and "the daily hauling of immense fortunes by Houphouet, his family and ministers to Switzerland and other Western countries." They claimed that the Ivory Coast was Africa's most indebted country, "with foreign debts by far higher than that of Zaire," and described as "fallacious" government explanations that all foreign loans were used to improve the quality of life of the masses.

The pamphlets denounced the recent reduction of public servants' salaries and posed cynical questions to government ministers: "Between us, gentlemen ministers, you who earn 1.5 million francs (N3,000) per month, you who enjoy free accommodation, medicare, transportation, etc., by how much do you intend to reduce your salaries? What service do you render to the state other than misappropriation of power and public wealth?"

The concluding paragraph which sounded like a rallying call to battle read: "People of the Ivory Coast, you cannot give in and leave the country in the hands of vultures. Democrats, brothers and Ivorians who love justice, let us unite and save the little that remains of our country."

Replying to points raised in the tracts, which not surprisingly the local media did not touch, the Executive Committee of the party contended that during the 24 years of its rule, "Ivorians have eaten a little better, have clothed a little better, have had at their disposal more comfortable houses, more hospitals and more schools." Still "beating its chest" over achievements since independence, the party reeled off impressive statistics: Gross Domestic Product had grown from 140.7 billion C.F.A to 2,578 billion C.F.A; cocoa output had risen from a meagre 80,000 tonnes at independence to a record 450,000 tonnes today; hospital beds had increased from 450 to 8,790, doctors from 95 to 518, schools from 1,544 to 3,852 and rural wells from 500 to 8,000. Stressing the maintenance of peace and stability in the country as perhaps its greatest achievement, the party, without mentioning any country, said that the Ivory Coast to which "people from all corners of the sub-region come for a bit of peace and bread" was the envy of several unstable neighbouring states.

Still, diplomats in Abidjan said they could see beyond the abovetribe of the anonymous pamphleteers and that of the ruling party. According to one who witnessed the 1980 general elections, the authors of the tracts were simply seeking ways to raise issues which normally could not be publicly discussed in the absence of an opposition, and sharpen the consciousness of citizens for the general elections scheduled for next year. Speculations are also rife that the pamphleteers may want to force the president and his ruling party to say a word about who will run for the presidency in 1985, considering that the aging president and his right-hand man, Minister of State Auguste Denise, may want to retire.

LIBERIA

Secom Awards Registration Certificate to U P

AB042209 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The Unity Party [U P], one of several proposed political parties in Liberia, was today awarded a certificate of registration by the Special Elections Commission [Secom] following a completion of registration requirements. A letter was also given to the interim chairman of the party, Dr. E. (Yebal Kaloumi), authorizing the party to legalize its status through the probate courts in Monrovia. This brings to two the number of political parties which have so far been certified by Secom.

The National Democratic Party of Liberia was the first to receive the certificate of registration from Secom on October 4 last year.

Presenting the certificate along with the a letter for the probate courts, Secom Cochairman Albert Whyte said the commission was happy to announce that U P had fulfilled the requirement for registration. He then urged leaders and partisans of political parties to be tolerant and understanding in the efforts to make Liberia a beautiful place to live.

Receiving the certificate on behalf of the party, Dr (Kaloumi) said he was certain that the Liberian people would love nothing better than to see this democratic process in Liberia come to a successful end.

Decree Amended To Provide Immunity for I N A Members

AB042142 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Decree No 89 which dissolved the People's Redemption Council, PRC, and established the Interim National Assembly (INA), has been amended to provide immunity from arrest of members of the INA. INA Decree No 4, which was released in Monrovia today, amending Decree No 89, clarified that Decree No 89 had omitted a section providing immunity from arrest of INA members as is normally applicable to members of such organizations.

Under Decree No 4, members of the INA shall enjoy immunity and shall be privileged from arrest except for treason, felony, and breach of the peace. The decree stipulates that no judge or

magistrate, nor any officer who administrates the law, shall issue or cause to be issued any writ of attachment or other legal precept against any INA member or against a member of his family living in his household, servants, clerical staff, officials, and employees of the Assembly.

Decree No 4, which is signed by the president of the INA, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, shall remain in effect during the existence of the INA. The decree takes effect immediately.

MALI

Loan Agreements Signed With France on 5 Jan

AB061102 Paris AFP in French 0824 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Bamako, 6 Jan (AFP) — The French and Malian Governments yesterday signed two loan agreements totaling about Fr 14 million (700 million CFA francs) in Bamako, it was officially disclosed in the Malian capital.

The first agreement, which amounts to Fr 9.6 million, partially provides for the financing of the Manantali Dam (Mali) on a tributary of the Senegal River. The second agreement, amounting to 4.2 million CFA francs, provides for the partial financing of a rice cultivation project in Mopti. A credit account amounting to 75 million CFA francs opened at the Malian National Agricultural Development Bank (BNDA, a mixed company) was added to these loans.

NIGER

Diplomatic Relations Established With YAR

AB041536 Paris AFP in French 1331 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Niamey, 4 Jan (AFP) — The Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and Niger have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of Saturday, it was officially announced in Niamey on Friday.

According to a communique from the Niger Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the two countries wish "to strengthen the ties that exist between the two brotherly peoples," owing to their "mutual faith in the objectives of the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and in the principles of the United Nations Charter."

NIGERIA

Briefs

Turkish Ambassador Presents Credentials — The new Turkish ambassador to Nigeria, (Cengiz Sevilchechet), presented his letters of credence to the head of state. Receiving the credentials, General Buhari said that the Nigerian mission in Turkey will be reopened as soon as the economy improved. [Excerpt] *[Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Jan 85 AB]*

GDR Ambassador Departs — Nigeria has expressed the desire to further her cooperation with the GDR. Head of state Major General Muhammadu Buhari, declared today in Lagos that Nigeria shared the concern of the GDR for world peace and security through mutual cooperation. He was speaking with the outgoing ambassador of the GDR in Nigeria, Dr Wolf Schunke. [Excerpt] *[Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Jan 85 AB]*

SENEGAL

President Diouf Reshuffles Cabinet 4 Jan

AB042221 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] A presidential decree announcing a Cabinet reshuffle was published this evening. Two ministers leave the government upon their own request, two change portfolios, while two new persons enter the government. Malik, you have the decrees before you.

[Begin Malik recording] Decree No 85011 on the Cabinet reshuffle: In view of the Constitution, especially Article 43, in view of Decree No 83461 of 1 May 1983 on the appointment of ministers and secretaries of state which was modified by Decree No 841151 dated 9 October 1984, the president decrees:

Article 1. Upon his own request, the appointment of Mamadou Diop as the minister of public health has been terminated.

Article 2. Upon his own request, the appointment of Francois Bob as the minister of youth and sports has been terminated.

Article 3. The appointment of Landing Sane as the secretary of state for decentralization has been terminated.

Article 4. The appointment of Thierno Ba as the secretary of state for employment has been terminated.

Article 5. Thierno Ba is appointed minister of public health.

Article 6. Landing Sane is appointed minister of youth and sports.

Article 7. Moussa N'doye is appointed secretary of state to the minister of interior in charge of decentralization.

Article 8. Alioune Diagne Coumba Aita is appointed minister of state to the minister of civil service, employment, and labor in charge of employment [title as heard].

Article 9. Consequently, the list of ministers and secretaries of state is as follows:

Minister of:

Armed forces: Medoune Fall
Justice and guardian of the seals: Doudou N'doye
Foreign affairs: Ibrahima Fall
Interior: Ibrahima Wone

Economy and finance: Mamadou Toure
Equipment: Robert Sagna
Culture: Abdel Kader Fall
National education combined with the duties of the minister of higher education: Iba Der Thiam
Plan and cooperation: Cheikh Amidou Kane
Rural development: Amadou Bator Diop
Industrial development and crafts: Serigne Lamine Diop
Scientific and technical research: Moussa Daffe
Housing and urban affairs: Hamidou Sakho
Commerce: Abdourahmane Toure
Information and telecommunications and relations with parliament: Djibo Ka
Civil service, employment, and labor: Andre Sonko
Public health: Thierno Ba
Social affairs: Mrs Maimouna Kane
Water resources: Samba Yella Diop
Youth and sports: Landing Sane
Environment: Cheikh Cissoko

Minister delegate for:

Emigration: Mrs Fambaye Fall Diop
Tourism: Momar Talla Cisse

Secretary of state to the minister of:

Interior in charge of decentralization: Moussa N'doye
National education in charge of technical and professional training: Marie Sarr M'bodj
Rural development in charge of fisheries: Bocar Diallo
Civil service, employment, and labor in charge of employment: Alioune Diagne Coumba Aita

Article 10. The present decree will be published in the *GAZETTE*.

Issued in Dakar on 4 January 1985.

[signed] Abdou Diouf, president [end recording]

We wish to specify that the new secretary of state for decentralization, Moussa N'doye, was formerly the governor of the St Louis Region. The new secretary of state for employment, Alioune Diagne Coumba Aita was the director of the National Guarantee and Assistance Company, (?Salagas).

SIERRA LEONE

North Korean Trade Delegation Leaves 6 Jan

AB061148 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Freetown, Jan 6 (AFP) — A three-man trade delegation from North Korea left here today at the end of commercial talks with a private company, the Ant Management Development Company, for the establishment of a plastics factory in Sierra Leone.

The factory will produce initially household utensils, plastic baskets and trays, and later bottles and other containers at the rate of 2,000 per day. An agreement is to be signed in April on a visit to Pyongyang by representatives of the company.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Replies to Diplomatic Corps Greetings

MB061050 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] The diplomatic corps accredited to the People's Republic of Angola presented new year greetings to Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the Republic, at Futungo de Belas in Luanda this morning. Milos Vesely, CSSR ambassador, make the following statement on behalf of all the diplomatic missions and international organizations in the People's Republic of Angola.

[Begin Vesely recording] Your Excellency Mr President of the People's Republic of Angola, on behalf of the heads of the diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited to the People's Republic of Angola, I have the honor of conveying our warm greetings on the occasion of the new year of 1985, the year of the 10th anniversary of the unforgottable proclamation of the independence of the People's Republic of Angola. Mr President, we are pleased to witness the important progress that the Angolan people have achieved under your leadership in all spheres of life, progress which is being achieved despite the incredibly difficult conditions of the racist South African regime's internal and external aggression. We fully and deeply understand the social and economic problems of the complicated process facing your beautiful country.

Mr President, we highly appreciate your wise diplomatic intitiative geared toward settling the problems of your country and those of southern Africa. In this difficult task, we wholeheartedly wish Your Excellency full success.

The sympathetic reception which you are now hosting for the diplomatic corps and the increasing number of my colleagues is evidence of the important broadness of the diplomatic representatio" in Angola. It proves the growing role of the People's Republic of Angola in the liberation struggle of the southern African nations, the struggle for the cohesion of the OAU, and the strengthening of the Nonaligned Movement's authority. It is witness to your full identification with the wishes of the people struggling for world peace and the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe.

We are proud of being the eyewitnesses to the unprecedented growth of the international prestige of the People's Republic of Angola. I assure you, esteemed Mr President, that we shall continue to greatly fulfill our mission toward strengthening the friendship and cooperation between our countries and international organizations and the People's Republic of Angola.

Within our capabilities, we shall contribute to attaining and maintaining peace and stability in southern Africa, achieving Namibia's independence based on implementing the applicable UN resolutions, and annihilating the inhuman apartheid system in South Africa in order to secure peace and security throughout the entire world.

Mr President, on behalf of my colleagues, I take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency, the Angolan Government, and the Angolan people sincere thanks for the hospitality, friendship, understanding, assistance, and cooperation that we have always received while fulfilling our task. Mr President, please once again accept our highest esteem and good wishes for the health, peace, progress, and prosperity of the Angolan people in 1985. We wish Your Excellency and ourselves a peaceful year in your beautiful country, southern Africa, and the entire world. [end recording]

In reply, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the Republic, said:

[Begin Dos Santos recording] Your Excellency, doyen of the diplomatic corps, Mr Ambassadors, chiefs of mission of the international organizations: I would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely on my own behalf and on behalf of the People's Republic of Angola for the kind statement made by the doyen of the diplomatic corps on your behalf as well as for the wishes of happiness and prosperity that he expressed to me and the Angolan people. This ceremony has become a traditional one. At the beginning of each year, we meet here and recall what the past year has been and work out a plan for the current year.

Whenever we meet on this occasion, we coincidentally express our hope for peace. Even today at this simple ceremony, the doyen of the diplomatic corps once again expressed his hope that 1985 will bring peace to all of us, for it is only in an atmosphere of peace and stability that we can dedicate ourselves to the development of Angola's potential and the promotion of the relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation existing between Angola and the peoples that you, Mr Ambassadors and heads of international organizations, are representing here in the People's Republic of Angola.

I would like to express gratitude and return similar wishes of personal well-being to you, Mr Ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions, and the hope of seeing 1985 as a very happy and prosperous year. Let it in fact bring us stability and peace. Let it create better conditions so that we can all work toward developing the relations of understanding, friendship, solidarity, and cooperation existing between the Government of the People's Republic of Angola and the Angolan people and the governments and peoples that Your Excellencies are representing here.

Thank you very much. Happy new year and prosperity to all. [end recording]

Dos Santos Message to Congolese on Anniversary

MB051106 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Message from Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, to Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Congolese Workers Party, PCT, and president of the People's Republic of Congo, on the 15th anniversary of the foundation of the PCT - date not given]

[Text] Esteemed comrade, on behalf of the Angolan people and the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, and on my own behalf, I have the honor of presenting warm greetings and congratulations to the Central Committee and the militants of your party and the Congolese people on the 15th anniversary of the founding of the PCT. With the founding of the PCT by the immortal Marien Ngouabi, the Congolese workers and revolutionaries armed themselves with this indispensable instrument of struggle for mobilization, organization, and leadership of the broad masses in the process of consolidating national independence and building the bases of a new and just society free of the exploitation of man by man.

On the commemoration of this great event in the life of your people, I take this opportunity to express to you our satisfaction with the progress achieved by the Congolese people in the different fields of their activity. We are convinced that the successes achieved by the PCT at its third ordinary congress as well as the results of the referendum of 23 September 1984, through which the fraternal Congolese people resolutely reaffirmed their dedication to and trust in the Central Committee of your party and its chairman, enabled us to very swiftly implement concrete actions toward solving the most pressing problems and achieve a steady and progressive improvement of the living standard of the Congolese working masses.

Please accept, esteemed Comrade, my best wishes of personal well-being and the reaffirmation of ever increasing consolidation of the traditional relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation existing between our peoples, parties, and governments.

Highest consideration.

[signed] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola

Dos Santos Receives Message From Bulgaria's Zhivkov

MB050828 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, yesterday received in Luanda a message from Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The message was delivered by the Bulgarian ambassador to Angola, whom the Angolan head of state received in Luanda yesterday morning.

Jonas Savimbi Delivers New Year Message

MB041206 Clandestine Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 4 Jan 85

[New year message to the nation by Jonas Savimbi, president of UNITA and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola; place and date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Compatriots and comrades in arms: On the occasion of the end of 1984, which was a year of the anti-Cuban patriotic front, I should like on behalf of the leadership of our revolution to congratulate all militants of UNITA, the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA], the Angolan women's league, the Angolan revolutionary youth, and all sympathizers and militants carrying out clandestine work for the resounding and convincing victories which have enabled our revolution to occupy an outstanding position in the southern African conflict. To all of you, I express sincere thanks and appeal to you to do better in 1985.

What was 1984 for us in UNITA? Our armed forces are now controlling a third of the country with about 1 million people. Our armed forces have thwarted all enemy offensives against our liberated areas, thus discrediting the MPLA, the Cubans, and the Russians in the eyes of the Angolan people and the international community. Besides consolidating their presence in 10 provinces, our armed forces have entered in full force the Provinces of Cuanza Norte, Luanda, Uige, Zaire, and Cabinda. Attacks on Luanda city are frequent, with constant power cuts which paralyze the whole industrial activity of the country's capital.

For UNITA, the resolution of the civil war in Angola lies in national reconciliation and national unity, which would guarantee peace in the country. The MPLA has been holding talks with the Americans and South Africans to solve the Namibian issue with the aim of combating UNITA in its rearguard. The MPLA has also advocated [preconisou], along with the Americans, the division of our country into two parts, north and south. It is not UNITA which is splitist and divisionist, but the MPLA, which is discussing with the major powers the possibility of dividing our country. We in UNITA regard this attitude as serious and as resulting from the panic of the MPLA band, because the MPLA cannot contemplate the possibility of another government in Luanda apart from that of the MPLA. That is why it resorts to formulas of treason to the fatherland.

We consider all these MPLA maneuvers as a big illusion because UNITA would never accept the application of Resolution No 435/78 favoring SWAPO. SWAPO's 20th brigade has been killing many Angolans, particularly in Andulo. Thus, it has a blood debt with us which it has to pay. The MPLA president has accepted the withdrawal of Cubans from Angola in exchange for Namibian independence. As far as UNITA is concerned, Cuban forces must leave Angola. We know that with the withdrawal of the Cubans, the MPLA government [words indistinct]. The MPLA needs the Cubans, not only to protect its regime against UNITA, which represents the majority of the people, but also to protect itself against the MPLA members themselves who do not agree with the clique which dominates the party.

The MPLA is today the torturer of the entire Angolan people. Executions of patriots are taking place throughout the country. In recent days, for example on 20 December 1984, brave patriots who opposed the domination of our country by the Cubans were executed in Moxico, Huambo, Benguela, Ndalatando, and Luanda. The MPLA can no longer deceive the people and pretend to represent them. The MPLA, which is in a panic, has increasingly been identifying itself as a sanguinary and reactionary oligarchy.

Let us examine the MPLA lies. In Huambo on 20 December 1984, the people, tired of MPLA lies, tortures, and violations, organized a mass demonstration against a minority regime demanding the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola. The MPLA and the Cubans responded with bullets and tanks. In Longonjo, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] were heavily defeated and the head of the Longonjo garrison battalion killed. In Lago Dilolo, the 63d and 67th Brigades had to yield to UNITA forces. Lepi was occupied by FALA, and in Kuango, the MPLA forces were unable to withstand the UNITA forces. The same was the case in Neone, (Kikengo) in Uige Province, and Kanfunfo on 29 December 1984. On the morning of 29 December in Kanfunfo town, where diamond mines are found, the 169th MPLA Brigade was heavily defeated and over 100 MPLA elements were killed. Our forces also captured a quantity of weapons, and as proof of this to the Angolan people and the international community, on that day in Kanfunfo UNITA captured Britons, Americans, Filipinos, Portuguese, and members of the FAPLA. The UNITA leadership will soon present them [words indistinct] if the MPLA has an equal ability (?and) show proof of its imagined victories.

It is worth noting that on 27 December 1984, Major Ento and the director of the Angolan Diamond Company were in Kanfunfo to assure foreign technicians and FAPLA forces that UNITA would never attack Kanfunfo. The MPLA leadership has been telling lie after lie. The FAPLA leadership has been telling lots of lies. We would like to call on the Angolan people to listen to the Voice of the Black Cockerel, which is the voice that explains the truth about the situation of the civil war in our country.

All true Angolan patriots of all tribes, races, and (?ethnic) and social groups must join UNITA in vigorously calling for immediate negotiations between UNITA and the MPLA in order to put an end to war, fear, and suffering of the Angolan people.

FALA must continue to treat all our people with tenderness, even those people who side with the MPLA. FALA has the duty of maintaining fraternal relations among themselves and must also treat in the same way as their brothers the FAPLA members who voluntarily surrender to our forces, so that we may jointly combat our common enemy, the Soviets, the Cubans, and their allies in our country.

In our opinion, the Cubans must leave our country altogether, because they are as much a bunch of colonizers as the Portuguese colonialists were. The Cubans only came to Angola to rob, rape, and massacre our people. The Cubans' objective, when they came to Angola, was to fight the South Africans; but they have failed to fight the South Africans.

If they came to Angola to fight UNITA, after 9 years the Cubans have plainly failed, because not only has UNITA stood its ground and consolidated its presence in the liberated areas, but today UNITA has also extended its activities to all parts of the country, with the exception of Mocamedes Province. Their objective has also failed. If the Cubans came to Angola to replace the Portuguese in the economic, social, and administrative infrastructures, they have failed, because Angola's economy has declined, the administrative structures do not exist, and the country's social situation is nearing chaos. In addition, if the Cubans came to keep the MPLA in power, which the Cuban leaders deny, they failed, because they are unfair to the FAPLA, as was the case in Munhango in September 1984, where the Cubans, who were piloting Migat [as heard] helicopters, preferred to carry two dead Cubans instead of wounded officers and soldiers of the 62d Brigade.

If the Cubans came to keep Lucio Lara in power, they have temporarily succeeded. Here and there, we are informed that the MPLA's minority government intends to replace the white Cubans with black Cubans. The black Cubans have not managed to obtain rights equal to those of the whites in Cuba, thus they lack the necessary morale to fight the Angolans in their territory.

Inside UNITA we think that the Angolans can solve their own problems. The year of 1985 — the year of total mobilization against the Cubans and defense of the territorial integrity of the country — demands of the UNITA cadres work, discipline, and faith in the victory which is drawing nearer.

Our armed forces must continue to apply pressure against the panicking enemy on all fronts. Our armed forces must continue to destroy whatever remains of the MPLA's economy, which only serves interests alien to our country. The armed forces must continue to infiltrate the petroleum-rich areas, and destroy industrial installations. We must perfect our organization inside the capital, Luanda, advance to the stage of daily attacks, and correctly choose objectives, so that the Angolan people and the foreigners — everyone — understand that the MPLA's time is up.

If the MPLA will not learn to use dialogue, it is the sacred duty of the FALA to create a radical change in the country through force of arms. I wish all Angolan people greater victories in 1985. God bless our dear country.

BOTSWANA

Masire Thanks PRC for Aid on Anniversary

MB061218 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has commended the People's Republic of China for the generous and selfless assistance it has accorded Botswana in the fields of health, agriculture, and the relaying of national railway line. Dr Masire said this in a message to the president of the People's Republic of

China, Mr Li Xiannian, on the occasion of the 10th anniversay of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Botswana and China.

The president said that Botswana owed the people of China a great debt for their contribution to the development of this country. Dr Masire noted that the people of China have made great strides in their economic and social development since the People's Republic was proclaimed 35 years ago.

He acknowledged that much remains to be done, but the rapidity with which China developed from a backward country was remarkable. He also said that the (?fact that) the people of China are prepared to share their skills, ideas, and (?victories) of their rapid economic development attests for China's commitment to the advancement of humanity as a whole.

The president also appreciated China's foreign policy of commitment to welfare, disarmament, decolonization, and opposition to superpower domination. He pointed out that many Third World countries had benefitted from Chinese experience in international relations.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Speaks to Diplomats at New Year Ceremony

MB0508 26 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1830 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Speech by Samora Machel, the chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, at a new year ceremony for the diplomatic corps accredited to Mozambique at Ponta Vermelha Palace in Maputo on 4 January — recorded]

[Text] We would like to express our sincere thanks for the friendly and kind words pronounced by the representative of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country. They are words which carry messages of friendship and solidarity of peoples represented here by Your Excellencies. Your presence at this gathering has a very deep meaning for us which goes beyond the strengthening of bilateral relations with each one of your countries. This meeting gives us an opportunity to review our relations and the main problems affecting our peoples and countries in the struggle for liberty and independence, peace, progress, and well-being of mankind.

In 1984, we took important steps to implement the objectives defined by the fourth Frelimo Party congress — to defend the fatherland, overcome backwardness, and build socialism. For the rigorous implementation of these objectives, we have undertaken political, military, and diplomatic actions which contribute to changing the situation in favor of harmony and equality among peoples and their economic and social development in each region and the world over.

Your Excellencies, the members of the diplomatic corps, we appreciate the attention and interest with which you have been following the economic and social situation of our country. We still continue to experience the effects of the prolonged and persistent drought, the worst in the last 50 years. From north to south, on almost all of our coastline, and in the countryside the drought has been destroying human lives, wildlife, and vegetation. This natural disaster affects more than 6 of Mozambique's 10 provinces, namely the Provinces of Tete, Nampula, Manica, Inhambane, Gaza, and Maputo, including about half of our entire population.

What is more, we were victims of Cyclone Domoina in southern Mozambique, which occured at a time when we preparing for the 1984 agricultural campaign. Situations such as this require a solution which is beyond our own efforts, resources, and abilities. The international community was able to understand this reality because Your Excellencies, the members of the diplomatic corps accredited here, have clearly transmitted to your governments and peoples the reality of our difficulties. That is why, on behalf of the Mozambican people and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique, we reaffirm our high appreciation for the support and solidarity received from the international community during these difficult periods. We hope that your support will continue, considering that our people are doing everything possible to reestablish their self-sufficiency within a short period of time. Your support must also be directed toward these efforts of our people because the true solution to the problem lies in the ability of our people to challenge nature. It is necessary that conditions be progressively and rapidly created for this purpose.

Your Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps, these natural disasters have not been the only ones affecting our social and economic development in recent years. The armed banditry and organized terrorism are some of the worst disasters imposed on us by the international imperialist conspiracy on our young, free, sovereign, and independent state. When on 25 June 1975 we proclaimed our independence, we thought that since peace had been achieved, we would devote ourselves essentially to the reconstruction of our life and fatherland. Armed banditry, an instrument of the policy of destabilization mounted by foreign forces against our country, forced our people to endure war for another 10 years. The struggle for our national independence aimed at establishing peace, which is a primordial condition for economic development and social progress. Always guided by the noble ideal of serving our people and responding to their initiative and desire to build a socialist fatherland, we have been combining efforts with a view to establishing peace and security in southern Africa.

The Nkomati Accord signed on 16 March 1984 between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa incorporates all the universal principles which have always been the raison d'etre of our struggle — peace, stability, good neighborliness, peaceful coexistence, rejection of the use of force, and nonaggression. We believe that the Nkomati Accord contains the necessary ingredients to establish peace in southern Africa. The establishment of good neighborliness contributes to the promotion of cooperation, thus placing the immense potential revenue of southern Africa at the service of its peoples. The Mozambican people enthusiastically greeted the Nkomati Accord. Our people and the region are apprehensive because of the climate of violence and terror which continues. We also know that the international community is concerned over actions which have prevented the full implemetnation of the spirit of the

Nkomati Accord in that it has not yet produced the main fruit security, stability, and peace. Violence and terror continue to reap lives and cause destruction in the People's Republic of Mozambique. There are facts which indicate the existence of violations of the Nkomati Accord from South African territory and other countries neighboring Mozambique. However, there have been statements and pledges from the South African Government to undertake all efforts to fully implement the letter and spirit of the Nkomati Accord.

Our people, who are the inheritors of a heroic tradition of resistance and struggle and are inspired by the clarity of the principles which guide them, are determined to deliver the final blow to the armed bandits and frustrate the intentions of their mentors. Maintaining the tradition of our armed struggle for national liberation, our government announced an amnesty decree last September. The clemency measures already announced demonstrate the seriousness of our government and people's tolerance in providing a final opportunity for the reintegration of the armed bandits into Mozambican society. Meanwhile, our people will continue to severely punish all those who persist in the path of terrorism.

Let no false humanists see our action as disrespect for human lives or rights. On the contrary, this is the only alternative that terrorism leaves us to preserve the lives and rights of millions of Mozambicans. We do not speak of human rights only in abstract thought. We speak of the rights of a peaceful people. We speak of every Mozambican's right to live and work in peace. We speak of the rights of every foreign citizen working with us to reconstruct our country and develop friendship and cooperation among our peoples. The undeclared war, acts of aggression, blackmail, armed banditry, and organized terrorism continue to be instruments of imperialist conspiracy aimed, using some neighboring countries and the capitals of some Western countries, at blocking the consolidation of truly democratic, popular, and antiracist states in the region.

Apartheid still continues to be a threat to peace and stability in the region. During 1984, we continued to admire the determination of the South African people to create in their own land a new democratic, social, and antiracial order. This struggle proves that eliminating apartheid continues to be the decisive factor in solving the conflict between the South African people and the Pretoria government.

In Namibia, the apartheid regime not only persists in occupying the territory in flagrant violation of the international positions enshrined in the UN Security Council Resolution No 435, but has also been intensifying the repression and exploitation of the Namibian people. Mozambique reiterates its total support for the just struggle of the Namibian people for their independence and its support for all initiatives to end the war.

Despite the pledge signed with the legitimate government of the MPLA, South Africa continues to occupy the southern area of Angolan territory. The Angolan people continue to deeply experience the violence of a war of aggression. The People's Republic Mozambique, conscious of the urgent need to end the war and to withdraw South African troops from Angolan territory, reiterates its support for all initiatives of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola to start general negotiations with the Government of the Republic of South Africa in order to establish a climate of peace and security. The end of war and the end of acts of aggression and hostilities in Angolan territory and on the borders between South Africa and its neighbors is a valuable contribution to establishing real peace in the southern region. It is also the duty of the international community to combine efforts for this purpose.

Your Excellencies, the ambassadors, the situation in southern Africa, where most of our diplomatic efforts have been concentrated, is still a zone of tension where a lot of work must still be done so that the peoples of the region can finally live in peace and tranquillity after being victims of violence and confrontation for a long time. Our diplomatic effort has also been directed toward contributing to reducing tension in areas marked by violence and war, to neutralizing the maneuvers of the enemies of the People's Republic of Mozambique, and to winning friends and working with them, particularly where our interests converge. Our efforts in the field of diplomacy have also been directed toward strengthening the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement and consolidating our alliance with our traditional friends, the socialist countries.

Within the limits of our abilities, we have also been directing our efforts toward the international situation, where imperialist aggressiveness is very much felt. The danger of this situation has, however, led to reinforcing the need for regional and continental unity and gaining new impetus in the struggle of peoples, thus forcing the belligerent and imperialist forces in many parts of the world to give way. The recent 20th OAU summit held in Addis Ababa is proof that it is possible to frustrate the maneuvers of division and blackmail when peoples' representatives make the spirit of unity prevail in the face of threats to the continent. African unity was threatened. However, the African peoples were able to demonstrate maturity and a high sense of responsibility by preserving their unity, thus reinforcing the international role of their continental body.

As a proof of this fact, the SDAR's taking its seat in the OAU as a full member is unequivocal testimony of the homage and recognition by all of Africa of the justness of the liberation cause of the Saharan people. This victory is the result of the successes achieved by the Saharan people on the battlefield and in the diplomatic struggle. It is a victory for all of Africa. It is now the duty of the international community to put pressure on the Kingdom of Morocco to meet with the Polisario Front to find ways of ending the conflict, which threatens peace there.

The recent developments in Chad instill in us the hope that finally the peace which is so much desired by the Chadian people may be achieved. This peace would ensure their economic, political, and social development. The initiatives that are being undertaken following the decisions of the OAU are an important base for the reconciliation of the Chadian people and they remove the threat of foreign intervention.

Within the framework of the search for an urgent resolution of conflicts which affect our continents, it is our conviction that it is the duty of the entire international community to seriously examine the situation of the people of East Timor. It is necessary

that Portugal, as the colonizing power, work coherently to force the Indonisian expansionist forces to abandon the territory which they illegally occupy and begin a process of negotiations with the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, which is the sole and legitimate representative of the people of East Timor.

We also reiterate our support for the struggle of the Palestinian people led by the PLO, their legitimate representative, for the establishment of a free, independent, and sovereign Palestinian state, to which they have a right.

In Latin America, the increasing escalation of confrontation and acts of destabilization and aggression, particularly against the peoples of Central America, concern us. The People's Republic of Mozambique will continue to defend the principle of dialogue for the peaceful resolution of the problems affecting this region. Accordingly, the direct talks between Nicaragua and the United States and between Cuba and the United States are encouraging initiatives. We continue to place our hope in the efforts of the Contadora Group in search of peace in the region, particularly in Nicaragua, where the legitimate government of Managua has been confronted with an aggression of alarming proportions. We consider positive the contacts and the path of dialogue opened between the belligerant sides in El Salvador with a view to finding a peaceful resolution of the conflict. We support the struggle and the positions defended by the Farabundo Marti Front for the achievement of democracy and liberty for the people.

In Asia, we support the proposals and the efforts of the Government of the DPRK for the peaceful reunification of the Korean fatherland and the establishment of peace and security in the Korean Peninsula. The prevailing situation in Kampuchea and the conflict between China and Vietnam, two socialist countries, concern us. We support the initiatives conducive to a general and just solution of the prevailing situation in Indochina, which is a concern to peace-loving peoples. We are encouraged by the progress observed in relations between USSR and China, two socialist countries which are our allies, though we are aware that there is still a long way to go for the normalization of relations.

Your Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps, within the framework of the implementation of our foreign policy, the year 1984 was marked by intense diplomatic work at bilateral and multilateral levels which culminated with visits at the highest level to various socialist countries of Asia, Africa, and socialist Europe. We made state and working visits to the People's Republic of Congo, the Republic of Zaire, Socialist Ethiopia, and the Republic of Malawi. In these visits, we strengthened the spirit of African unity and cooperation. We visited the PRC, DPRK, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Socialist Republic of Romania, and the People's Republic of Bulgaria. We also held important talks in Bucharest with President Erich Honecker of the GDR. These visits contributed to the deepening of our relations of friendship and cooperation with our traditional friends. They contributed to a greater integration of the People's Republic of Mozambique in the community of socialist countries to which we belong. In this framework, we received in our country the president of the Republic of Burkina Faso, the prime minister of Portugal, the prime minister of Bulgaria, and the vice president of the DPRK. Also arriving in our country for important working visits were the presidents of the United Republic of Tanzania, the SDAR, and the People's Republic of Angola.

During the year 1984, the People's Republic of Mozambique took part in various international meetings, including actively participating in the 20th OAU summit, the conference between the Socialist International and the Frontline States, and in a number of meetings of Frontline States, where we held frank and open discussions and had an opportunity to jointly examine the main problems affecting Africa, particularly in our region.

We reiterate the need to implement the important decisions taken by the OAU in the fight against drought and for the economic development of Africa. Worth mentioning is the declaration on southern Africa that examines the prospects for liberating the peoples of our region.

Our country hosted the extraordinary summit of the five African Portuguese-speaking countries. They met so that, within the framework of traditional unity and solidarity, they could express their unequivocal support for the peace initiatives undertaken by Angola and Mozambique.

Within the framework of the development of relations with other peoples and states, we appointed new ambassadors to the GDR, United States, DPRK, and Japan. Likewise, we had the pleasure of welcoming for the first time in our country the ambassadors of the PLO, Bangladesh, and the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. The above were our efforts in the field of diplomatic cooperation and are important elements for the promotion of experience, understanding, peace, and cooperation among our peoples.

In the face of the constant threats to peace and security, it is the fundamental duty of all peace-loving forces to fight for the creation of a lasting peace and continued friendship among peoples for the interest of all of mankind. The struggle for general and complete disarmament, including nuclear and space disarmament, constitutes one of the major aspirations of the People's Republic of Mozambique, an African, nonaligned, socialist, and peace-loving country. The talks due in Geneva next week between the United States and the USSR are viewed with great expectations by peoples. The People's Republic of Mozambique will continue to combine efforts with a view to adopting concrete measures to transform the Indan Ocean into a peace and demilearized zone. Lifting up the developing countries inevitably requires the halt of the arms race and the channeling of the fabulous resources which today are devoted to the preparation of war to the development of peoples.

Your Excellencies, the ambassadors, we share the thesis that the present international economic order is irrational, unjust, and incompatible with the true aspirations of peoples. It is essentially directed against the basic interests of the developing countries and does not correspond to the true philosophy of the development and progress of human society. The present international economic order demands the exercise by each people of their full and continued rights over their natural resources. It is necessary that the North-South dialogue produce practical effects and stop

being dominated by the difficulties and selfishness of the countries of the North. The establishment of relations as equal partners presupposes the abandoning of the practice of economic hegemonism, the pillage of natural resources, and the constant and systematic lowering of the price of products exported by the countries of the South. The People's Republic of Mozambique is an advocate of the promotion of economic relations with all countries of the world based on the reciprocity of advantages and mutual benefit. In this context of deepening cooperation relations, South-South assumes particular importance. Within the framework of strengthening international economic and financial relations, the People's Republic of Mozambique recently approved the law of foreign investments and joined the IMF and its institutions and the Lome III convention.

Your Excellencies, the ambassadors, Your Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps, another year has just ended. We are confident that the problems that mankind faces, no matter how complex, will be confronted with greater (?vigor) and realism to find solutions that will satisfy the legitimate aspirations of peoples. We are by nature optimistic, and we always try to maintain a very high spirit of confidence even in adverse conditions. We began the year 1985 with encouraging signs in some aspects, as we have mentioned above, which may contribute to creating a climate of peace, security, and international detente, for which the peoples all over the world fight.

On this occasion, we would like to send our greetings to the citizens of your countries working with us. We hail their devotion and enthusiasm. With all respect and admiration, we hail those who sacrificed their lives for the development of the People's Republic of Mozambique. With their blood mixed with the blood of many Mozambicans, they sealed the friendship among our peoples. To all those who share with us this period of national reconstruction, we extend our wishes of successes and happiness during this new year of 1985.

We are aware of how greatly your governments and embassies are concerned over the security of the foreign aid workers in the People's Republic of Mozambique in the face of acts of terrorism committed by the armed bandits. We want to assure you that initiatives are already being undertaken by the government with a view to reinforcing their security with greater effectiveness and ensuring them greater tranquillity in fulfilling their missions.

Your Excellencies, I ask you to convey to your distinguished heads of state and government, whom we view with regard, as well as to your peoples, our wishes for happiness and progress. To Your Excellencies, the ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country, and your families, we also wish you a happy and prosperous new year and many successes in fulfilling your noble task in the People's Republic of Mozambique. The struggle continues. Thank you very much, Your Excellencies, the ambassadors.

CSSR's Ambassador's Speech

MB041920 Mapauto in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpts] President Samora Machel has said there are facts which indicate the existence of violations of the Nkomati Accord from the South African territory and other states which are Mozambique's neighbors.

The president was speaking in Maputo this afternoon at a new year ceremony for the diplomatic corps accredited to Mozambique.

A speech read by the ambassador of Czechoslovakia on behalf of the entire diplomatic corps said the diplomats know that it is not Mozambique's fault that obligations of the Nkomati Accord are not satisfactorily fulfilled. It said Mozambique showed in 1984 in a convincing manner its decision to carry out a peaceful policy and resolve its main urgent problems. It said the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] terrorists are being supported abroad by circles which wish for a return to the colonial days.

Machel Says Portugal Shares Responsible for 'Banditry'

MB060959 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Speaking to the Portuguese charge d'affaires, (Joao de Deus Gomes), President Samora Machel said (?Portugal had been turned into) the headquarters of the armed banditry in Western Europe.

The Mozambican head of state said that only a small group of Portuguese people want to harm relations between the two countries. The Mozambican head of state recalled that it should not be forgotten that South Africa, which is the ally of the United States, Great Britain, and France, bears most responsibility for the existence of armed banditry, but that there are people in Portugal who also are responsible because they are the leaders of the armed bandits.

President Samora Machel told (Joao de Deus Gomes) that there are members of the Portuguese Government who have connections with the armed bandits and that, if their names have not yet been revealed, it was to avoid scandal and was a sign of respect for the friendship which President Samora Machel maintains with President Ramalho Eanes and Prime Minister Mario Soares.

UNSC Member Envoys Pledge To Help Fight 'Banditry'

MB060847 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] The representatives of the five countries that are permanent members of the UN Security Council accredited in Maputo yesterday stated their intention of joining efforts to eliminate armed banditry in our country in 1985.

The ambassadors of the United States, USSR, China, and Great Britain and the French charge d'affaires expressed this position and said that they would do everything possible to put an end to banditry.

Government Can No Longer Ensure Safety of Foreigners
AB041910 Paris AFP in English 1856 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Maputo, Jan 4 (AFP) — The Mozambican Government has informed foreign diplomatic missions that it can no longer ensure the security of their citizens after several recent murders of foreigners by anti-government rebels, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources said the announcement came in an official circular sent to embassies in Maputo on December 20, in which foreigners were also advised not to travel around the country.

The letter followed attacks by anti-government rebels last month in which seven East Germans, a Yugoslav, a Swede and a Portuguese citizen were killed. The killings, presumed to have been carried out by the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) Movement, led many embassies here, including those of Britain and Denmark, to advise their staff not to travel outside main towns.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha Says No Officials Held Talks With ANC
MB070734 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, has denied that any South African officials have held talks with the African National Congress, ANC. President Botha was reacting to newspaper reports to this effect and told the South African Broadcasting Corporation that talks would only be held with the ANC once it had turned its back on violence. He said the government was always prepared to negotiate with people who were searching for prosperity in South Africa within the bounds of constitutional development. However, negotiations would never be held with those who threatened the happiness and security of the people of South Africa with violence.

The state president also denied once again earlier reports that members of the national party had been involved in talks with the ANC.

Johannesburg: Bombing Shows True Nature of SWAPO
MB070848 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Station commentary: "SWAPO"]

[Text] Any confusion which might still exist about what SWAPO is and what it stands for should be removed by its latest action in South-West Africa/Namibia: a bomb blast in the Ondangua post office which killed four civilians and injured 14 others.

This is the action of an organization which claims to be the sole representative of the people of South-West Africa/Namibia, and is indeed recognized as such by the United Nations. Significantly, the bomb was triggered on the day set as a deadline for SWAPO to accept an invitation by the Multiparty Conference to join it in deliberations on the territory's future.

The Multiparty Conference is a convention of all the major political parties which support free elections. By contrast, SWAPO is bent on seizing power in the territory through the barrel of a gun. It is not interested in the democratic process, and yet it hollowly calls for the immediate implementation of United Nations Resolution 435, which implicitly states that the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia must be achieved through free and fair elections.

The first obvious requirement for such a program to be put into affect is a cessation of hostilities in the territory. Proving its rejection of the democratic process, SWAPO has refused to consider ending its terrorist campaign until Resolution 435 has been implemented. This stance and its continued terrorist action is totally in keeping with its record of consistant rejection of the democratic process. Its acts of violence are not aimed directly at the security forces in the territory. They are aimed instead at civilians — the ordinary people of South-West Africa/Namibia, whom it claims to represent in the outside world.

With its commitment to maintaining its terrorist campaign, SWAPO shows itself to favor violence as a means of achieving political ends. As such, it is little more than a terrorist organization. In the final analysis, it will have to choose between joining the democratic consensus on South-West Africa/Namibian independence or being regarded as the biggest obstacle in the way of achieving that goal.

ZIMBABWE

Minister: Sithole Asks for U.S. Help in Coup Attempt
MB071152 Harare Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] The minister of state for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, has disclosed that the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole went to the United States to seek arms to overthrow the government. In an interview with the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation today, Comrade Munangagwa said he is in possession of letters which Sithole had written to the U.S. Government asking for sophisticated arms to overthrow the government. The minister added that the letters also gave a detailed plan of how Sithole was to carry his plot. The letters have since been handed back to the government by the Americans, Comrade Munangagwa added.

Sithole, who is now in Britain, left the country last year claiming he was being threatened with arrest. However, Comrade Munangagwa said Sithole had not committed any offense at the time until his arrival in Washington. The minister added that now Sithole had committed a serious offense, he would certainly be questioned when he returned home.

Comrade Munangagwa also added that adequate arrangements have been made to ensure that the forthcoming general election are peaceful. He said the security forces were being deployed in areas the government felt would be security risks during the elections.

British Foreign Secretary Howe Arrives in Harare

MB051206 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, arrived in Zimbabwe this morning for talks with government officials. Sir Geoffrey, who is leading a 10-man delegation, will hold talks with the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, and the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, on Monday. The talks are expected to focus on bilateral cooperation and other issues and the situation in southern Africa, with particular emphasis on the Namibian independence program. Sir Geoffrey Howe is also expected to pay a courtesy call on the president, Comrade Canaan Banana, on Monday. He will also meet members of the party secretariat.

Today and tomorrow, the British foreign secretary will visit Founding Concessions and Victoria Falls and will meet members of the British military advisory team. Sir Geoffrey will also visit Zambia and Kenya to hold talks with Presidents Kenneth Kaunda and Daniel arap Moi.